

## Sirs attacks BSC loss claims

British Steel Corporation claims that the weather and anti-dumping actions by United States steel producers could cost it £100m in lost production was dismissed yesterday by Mr Bill Sirs, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation general secretary, as "absolutely ridiculous". He cited low morale as a main factor in BSC's chief sees little hope of breakthrough. Mr Jan MacGregor, BSC's financial director, said the company's losses in the 1982-83 financial year.

## Tatchell appeals for review

Mr Peter Tatchell, the left-winger who was refused endorsement as Labour's choice for Bermondsey, south London, appealed to Mr Michael Foot to think again. Mr Robert Clay was rejected as prospective candidate for Sunderland, North, because he has not been a party member for the full two years.

## Lane to quit as head of CRE

Mr David Lane, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, is to leave the post at the end of April. The CRE was severely criticized last year in a House of Commons report.

## Agreement on Sinai force

Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands have agreed to send military units to take part in the peace force to be deployed when Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai in April.

## Angry Brigade 'in arms raid'

A man who said he represented the Angry Brigade, the terrorist group which operated in Britain in the early 1970s, yesterday told The Times that the group was responsible for an arms theft at a Cambridgeshire army camp.

## Playboy pays admiral £100,000



Playboy is to pay a golden handshake of between £100,000 and £200,000 to Admiral Sir John Treacher (pictured) who headed the "gambling empire" for just 96 days. Page 11

## Leap from plane saves minister

Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, was found alive and well 30 hours after his aircraft crashed. He survived by jumping out seconds before the aircraft flew into a hill. His two companions were killed. Page 6

## Botham is latest tour casualty

Ian Botham, the England all-rounder, has a virus infection and may miss the fifth Test match with India starting in Madras tomorrow. He joins Bob Taylor, the wicketkeeper, on the sick list. Page 16

## Miners warned

Coal board members who visited three pits warned miners that a strike vote this week will not force the board to increase its 9.5 per cent pay offer and avert a stoppage. They emphasized that there would be no more money. Page 2

Winners of the Personalities of the Year competition, published in The Times on December 31, will be published tomorrow and not today as announced.

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# Soviet action condemned unanimously by Nato

From Ian Murray and Frederick Bonmart  
Brussels, Jan 11

Wholesale condemnation of the Soviet Union for its involvement in the Polish military takeover was unanimously agreed by the North Atlantic Council meeting in Brussels today.

The strongly-worded declaration also included a list of measures to be taken against both Poland and the Soviet Union if the situation does not improve. Only Greece dissented from approving such measures, which would include restriction on the movements of diplomats from these countries and energy, agricultural, financial and technological sanctions.

A measure of the growing Western consensus on the situation was the short time it took the meeting to approve the 16-paragraph declaration. Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who had urged that the meeting be called, was able to announce happily at the end: "There will be no business as usual while the situation in Poland continues as it does."

Mr Haig was in no doubt that the meeting had been a great success. It was, he said, a vigorous Allied response which would help to relieve the Polish people from the oppression they were tragically experiencing.

He also emphasized that although talks in Geneva on nuclear disarmament in Europe would resume the next day, if they failed it would be the responsibility of the Soviet Union because of its actions in Poland.

The declaration also wants an early recall of the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a follow-on of the Helsinki conference. This is seen by the Allies as the best forum for changing the Soviet Union and the Polish military regime for the attacks on human rights.

By next week economic and political advisors are expected to start a series of meetings to work out exactly what measures should be imposed. A main consideration is that to see if any measures can be mine sanctions already imposed by the United States. It is likely that the measures will be ready for approval by the EEC foreign ministers at their formal meeting on January 13.

Ministers made clear after the meeting that the only thing which would stop sanctions being applied was meaningful progress inside Poland. This would mean an end to martial law, release of the prisoners held without trial, and a change in the course of events in Poland.

Mr Haig said the declaration was a "clear and unambiguous statement" of disapproval from the judge's decision. Mr Ashley called on the judge to withdraw his comment and reconsider the sentence as allowed under section 11 (2) of the Courts Act 1971. He would also seek to reintroduce his Bill, defeated in 1978 by 293 votes to 34, to allow the prosecution to fight an appeal against excessively lenient sentences.

The full text of Lord Hailsham's typed letter reads: "Thank you for your letter of 6th Jan 1978. I am sorry that I will not be able to deal with your letter in my own way, with due regard both to the seriousness of the offence and to the limitations on the constitutional position of the Lord Chancellor."

Mr Ashley said: "This is a clear dissociation by the Lord Chancellor from the actions of Judge Richardson and it will reassure the very many men and women who have been greatly disturbed by recent events. The ball is now in Judge Richardson's court."

The MP, who is also seeking a meeting with Lord Hailsham to discuss what other changes in the system might be needed to prevent similar occurrences, said he was not optimistic about the chances of his Bill, but the House of Commons should at least have the chance to debate the issues.

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Cold comfort: Soldiers on duty in Warsaw seek warmth before a fire.

## Rape judge was wrong Hailsham tells MP

By Frances Gibb

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday repudiated the comment of a judge last week that a rape victim who hitherto been a life was guilty of contributory negligence and that the rapist's penalty should accordingly be reduced.

He said: "Contributory negligence does not, of course, constitute any defence to rape, nor in my view in the absence of actual sexual provocation, should imprudence on the part of a victim operate as a factor in mitigation by the rapist."

The Lord Chancellor was replying to letters from Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, who has been in the forefront of the outcry against Judge Richardson's comment and his sentence of a £2,000 fine on the rapist.

Welcoming Lord Hailsham's letter as a "clear and unambiguous statement" of disapproval from the judge's decision, Mr Ashley called on the judge to withdraw his comment and reconsider the sentence as allowed under section 11 (2) of the Courts Act 1971. He would also seek to reintroduce his Bill, defeated in 1978 by 293 votes to 34, to allow the prosecution to fight an appeal against excessively lenient sentences.

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## Rail strike is on and may be widened

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Peace talks aimed at averting the total shutdown of the railway network tonight failed last night and train drivers' leaders are planning to widen the dispute into a prolonged stoppage next week.

Leaders of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) left four hours of talks with British Rail and the two other rail unions in an angry mood.

Mr Raymond Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said: "Nothing has changed. The strike goes ahead. I think if anything BR has made the situation worse tonight."

During what was apparently a heated meeting BR indicated that it was considering paying a 3 per cent increase to 500 driver members of the National Union of Railwaymen which has agreed productivity payments for its other members.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR board member for industrial relations, said after the meeting: "I cannot say that we have made any progress in the sense of reaching an agreement. Every minute is now precious, and we are prepared to talk all night, and all tomorrow if necessary. I do not think tonight's talks have worsened the situation."

The executives of the three unions were meeting late last night to discuss the meeting with BR and the NUR leadership was discussing whether to take up the management's offer of discussions on payment of the 3 per cent to their 500 drivers.

It is the denial of that 3 per cent to Aslef which led the train drivers to calling the two-day strike which starts at midnight.

A gradual shutdown was being planned by BR to start from 10 pm although some earlier trains may be cancelled today and there were threats from some sections of the footplate-men's union that a prolonged stoppage could begin next week.

The talks at BR's headquarters in London were thought to be deciding what further action it could take after the two-day strike. Some of the more optimistic union officials were also cautiously suggesting that the union may be prepared to attend last-minute talks today to avert the strike.

Mr Buckton said before going into the executive meeting that he could not understand why BR was not prepared to modify its position as the pay agreement last August was quite clear that productivity should be treated as a separate issue from pay.

The Aslef executive is coming under increasing pressure from branches to widen the action into an indefinite strike. It is understood the executive yesterday discussed that possibility.

Aslef members from the King's Cross depot in London staged a protest meeting in the lobby of BR's Euston offices but left after being addressed by two Aslef executive members who "warned them that the negotiators would not agree to changes in the eight-hour day."

Battle lines, back page  
BR reply to Buckton, page 8  
Parker speech, page 11

British Rail said last night that the national two-day strike meant no trains will run after 10 pm today until Friday morning.

There will be a progressive shutdown of the rail network tonight and there may be some cancellations earlier than 10 pm to ensure that all trains reach their destinations before the strike is due to start at midnight.

A main priority for British Rail will be to ensure that locomotives and rolling stock are in the right positions for a resumption of normal working on Friday morning.

No overnight sleeper, parcels or mail trains will operate today and there has already been a suspension of trains carrying livestock and highly perishable goods, except where delivery by today was assured.

Level-crossing gates and barriers will be left open to road traffic but BR gives a warning that in the case of automatic

half-barriers, drivers of large or slow vehicles must still follow established safety procedures and use the special telephone before crossing the line.

BR also gave a warning that the current overhead electrified lines and third-rail systems will remain switched on. Cautious points at principal stations where there is a regular trade with people other than railway passengers will remain open, although opening times may be adjusted.

It will make refund on unused full and reduced-rate tickets, and in the case of season tickets refunds will be made on if travellers prefer their validity will be extended when they are renewed with the exception of weekly season tickets.

BR is making arrangements for information on train services to be recorded by British Telecom on 01-246 8021. Information Service, back page

## Jenkins to contest Hillhead by-election

By Our Political Editor

Confirmation that Mr Roy Jenkins is to contest the Hillhead, Glasgow, by-election on behalf of the Social Democratic/Liberal Alliance came last night when Mr Charles Brodie, prospective Liberal candidate for Hillhead, announced that he was standing down in Mr Jenkins's favour.

Glasgow Liberals promised full campaigning support for Mr Jenkins, the former Labour Cabinet minister and the only one of the four joint leaders of the SDP without a seat in the Commons.

Hillhead, the only Glasgow seat retained by the Conservatives at the last general election, fell vacant with the death on January 2 of Sir Thomas Galbraith.

It is a marginal seat. Sir Thomas held it in 1979 with 12,368 votes against the Labour candidate's 10,366, a majority of only 2,002. The Liberal was third with 4,349 and the Scottish National Party candidate fourth with 3,050.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last night: "I am delighted that we are going to have a united Alliance campaign for Roy Jenkins in Hillhead. His return to the House of Commons is in all our best interests."

"I hope the generous decision of Hillhead Liberals and particularly of Chick Brodie in supporting Roy Jenkins for the Alliance, will discourage the silly people in both our parties who have recently preferred public bickering to working for real progress for the Alliance."

Mr Steel was speaking from Richmond, Virginia, where he is on a lecture tour.

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## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Lane to quit as CRE chief

Mr David Lane, the former Conservative Minister, will leave the Commission on Racial Equality of which he is chairman at the end of April. It was confirmed yesterday that he has found a successor who will be announced in the next few days.

In a statement, Mr Lane said that he had held the Home Secretary's post for two years, the first time he had held the post since 1972. Mr Lane has been chairman of the CRE since its inception in 1976.

The Commission has had a chequered career, coming in for criticism from the left as well as the right. These two camps were joined in the House of Commons by the Conservative and Labour Members of the House of Commons last year to agree on a devastatingly critical report.

It is understood that Mr Lane's departure has nothing to do with the report, which was distinguished for expressing no criticism of the Commission. But the report did say that the Commission was ineffective, incoherent, and lacking in legal expertise.

It recommended that the CRE pay more attention to law enforcement and that it should be given a statutory duty to promote racial harmony.

## Rampton board may be copied

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that the local management board set up at Rampton Hospital in the wake of the Boynton review could pave the way for similar boards at other security hospitals. The review was ordered three years ago after a controversial document on Yorkshire Television called "The Secret Hospital" alleged that patients were being ill-treated by staff at Rampton, Nottinghamshire.

## Alliance 'should cancel Trident'



Dr David Owen (above) said on Granada Television's *World in Action* programme last night that if a Social Democratic/Liberal government came to power in the next general election it should cancel Britain's Trident missile programme. Dr Owen, one of the alliance leaders, said he had fought tooth and nail against Trident as a successor to Polaris when Foreign Secretary in the former Labour Government, and saw no reason to change that view.

## Evangelical study centre opened

A research and study centre to serve the Evangelical movement in British Christianity was launched in London yesterday. The new centre, the Evangelical Study Centre, is the brainchild of Rev John Stott, the first director, will be "to make contemporary Christians out of Biblical Christians".

## Council officers are suspended

Scotland Yard's fraud squad is investigating allegations about Hackney Council in east London. Three council officers have been suspended during an inquiry which began internally and could involve up to 1m.

## Policeman's perjury

Peter Harvey, aged 35, of Sackville Way, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, who pleaded guilty to perjury after interviews, was given a six-month suspended sentence at York Crown Court yesterday. He pleaded guilty to two perjury charges.

## Actor found dead

Mr Ronald Lewis, aged 54, the film actor, was found dead by his landlady in St George's Avenue, Westminster, yesterday. Crime is not suspected.

## Computer shows cheapest way to empty dustbins

By David Walker

Some councils could save up to 40 per cent by reorganizing their refuse collection services, according to an unpublished survey by the independent Local Authorities Management Services and Computer Committee (Lamsac).

Savings of £70m on the £700m annual cost of emptying Britain's dustbins could be made without reduction in service to householders and shops and substantial savings are possible without redundancies.

A Lamsac survey of 160 councils suggested that about a third of all councils could save between 30 and 40 per cent by changing the way dustbin men work, from the way they lift the refuse to the routes their vehicles take.

Lamsac found that a third were collecting refuse in cost-effective ways at prices the private sector would find difficult to match.

The survey results have been passed to the Department of the Environment, and the Government now plans to join local authority associations in financing a similar study of council building repairs.

Lamsac's survey was done partly because of the difficulty in comparing the cost of refuse

collection in different areas. For example, in 1980-81 it was estimated to cost the Conservative council in Westminster £23,000 for every 1,000 people, compared with £7,500 in Labour Greenwich, £10,500 in Labour Birmingham and £7,000 in Conservative Solihull. Such figures reflect differences in population and property rather than efficiency.

Lamsac has devised a computer model to calculate for any council the manpower and equipment needed for bin emptying and 16 other methods of getting refuse from households into collection lorries.

The computer model helped to cut costs in the London Borough of Southwark by £700,000 in a year when the council reorganized its refuse collection.

A simplified version of the model has been made available to trade unions to convince them that labour costs are being fairly calculated.

Mr Duncan Lock, a Conservative councillor and former chairman of the Association of District Councils, says that while Lamsac's model "refuse collection services provided by local authorities can match anything the private sector can do".

## Coal board steps up drive against strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday stepped up its publicity campaign in the coalfield with a warning that a strike vote in the pits this week will not produce an increase in the 9.5 per cent "final offer".

Three board members travelled to key National Union of Mineworkers areas to force a "yes" vote in the pit-head strike ballot starting on Thursday.

Mr James Cowan, NCB member for industrial relations, who leads negotiations with the miners, said in Edinburgh: "We cannot offer any more money, even if faced with a strike threat. The board wishes to make this position quite clear now to everyone in the industry."

The board is seeking to undermine left-wing NUM leaders' argument that a vote to give the union's national executive the power to call a strike will not necessarily mean a stoppage.

Mr Cowan told Scottish miners: "The argument being used is that, faced with the threat of a strike, the coal board will improve its offer. But we have repeatedly made it clear that we have reached the limit of the money which can be offered."

Mr Cowan has seized on the chief flaw in the union's presentation of its strike proposal, that a majority for industrial action would automatically put the NUM into a stronger bargaining position.

Mr John Mills, the NCB

member for mining, used the same words in a speech to miners at Lea Hall colliery, Rugby, Staffordshire, and Mr Merrick Spanton passed a similar message to Nottinghamshire miners.

"The coal industry has a golden future in its grasp and it would be the greatest folly of miners to let it pass," said Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday (Tony Hodges writes).

He told members of the Coal Industry Society that few industries in Britain had a greater growth potential, but nearly half its operational costs were on wages, salaries and other labour costs, which had a substantial and direct effect on the coal board's ability to win and keep new customers.

"The members of the NUM will be voting about the kind of industry they wish to work in. They will have to consider whether they wish to work in an industry which is steadily building up its strength, or do they wish to work in a stagnant industry steadily pricing itself out of the market?" he said.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM's president-elect, yesterday urged the Government and the coal board to deliver free coal to the aged and infirm and to the fuel to the Central Electricity Generating Board from the 40 million tonnes of coal stocks.

The NUM Power Group executive, representing 6,000 craftsmen and technicians, has voted unanimously to accept the coal board's pay offer.

## Water men likely to accept 9.1pc

By Donald MacIntyre

Leaders of 32,000 water and sewerage workers will be urged by the industry's biggest union to accept formally a 9.1 per cent pay offer after a narrowly divided vote.

The outcome of votes in all 119 unions should leave an 11.9 majority among union negotiators in favour of the offer when they meet in the next few days to decide their stand.

In the last two results, announced yesterday, members in the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has three representatives on the negotiating committee, voted to reject the offer, while those in the National Union of Agricultural Workers voted to accept.

Since the largest union, the General and Municipal Workers, whose members voted narrowly to accept the offer, Mr Peter Tatchell, the union's secretary, said the offer was "a good one" and that the union would accept it.

Nupe negotiators, who have been urged by the union's executive to discuss fresh talks with the council, may argue that union leaders should try for improvements on the ground that a simple majority of the council has voted against the offer.

The council's hopes of avoiding a conflict in the industry suffered an unexpected setback last month when Nupe's national water committee refused to endorse the unanimous recommendation of negotiators in all four unions in favour of accepting the deal.

A delegation of officers and members concerned with the dispute with British Rail Sea-link has been invited to go to France to meet their opposite numbers in the French union, the CGT, later this week.

The dispute began last week when Sealink announced its intention to withdraw from the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry service.

## New appeal to Foot by Tatchell

By Anthony Bevis

Mr Peter Tatchell, the left-winger who last month was refused official endorsement as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Bermondsey, last night appealed to Mr Foot to change his mind.

The public appeal, delivered in an interview on BBC's *Nationwide* programme, came after the party executive's organization committee had decided that two candidates should go to Bermondsey to explain the rejection of its candidate.

But Mr Eric Heffer, the committee chairman, stressed that the executive decision to refuse Mr Tatchell's candidature was binding and there was no indication that the appeal would be moved by the party.

Mr Heffer also said that yesterday's organization committee meeting had made no decision on the candidacy of Mr Patrick Wall, Mr Tatchell's supporter, who has been selected in place of the sacking MP for Bradford North, Mr Benjamin Ford.

But another left-wing parliamentary prospective candidate, Mr Robert Clay, in Sunderland, North, was not endorsed because he had been a member of the party for less than the requisite two years. His candidacy would be approved if he was selected again after completion of two years in the party, in March.

Mr Tatchell welcomed the opportunity to hear a first-hand explanation of the executive decision and the chance to present his defence.

The main reason against him was a suggestion that extra-parliamentary action should be taken to challenge the Government's right to rule.

Mr Tatchell said last night that he had written nothing which contradicted a commitment to parliamentary democracy. On the contrary, extra-parliamentary action could boost the power of the Labour opposition in the House of Commons.



In the thick of it: snow covering cars, houses and gardens in Newport, Gwent

## Freeze disruption worsens

By Staff Reporters

Freezing temperatures continued to cripple most of Wales yesterday as territorial and regular Army units mounted "Operation Snowman" to help people still stranded by huge snowdrifts compacted into ice.

Thousands of people in Pembrokeshire faced their fourth night without electricity as a fleet of seven helicopters ferried engineers to repair inaccessible power lines.

In spite of efforts by local authority workers, scores of roads remained closed last night and the M4 was still blocked west of Newport.

Dozens of abandoned cars remain scattered along the motorway, and some of their owners were still being accommodated in emergency centres.

Nearly half a million Welsh school children are enjoying an extension of their Christmas holidays because the snow and ice have almost completely closed the education system.

Yesterday schools and colleges were closed throughout the south and central parts of the principality, and many are expected to remain so for the rest of this week. Only the northern counties of Cymru and Gwynedd were able to keep some classrooms open.

Throughout South and central Wales the blizzards left school buildings snowed in and roads impassable, and the few schools which could be reached by road had burst water pipes and broken heating systems. Local education authorities

used local radio and television stations to warn pupils not to turn up for the new term.

In South Glamorgan, which includes Cardiff, all 220 schools will remain closed until next Monday. A spokesman for the county education department said that enormous damage was expected to have been caused to school buildings, now under up to five feet of snow.

Basic food supplies in many areas of South Wales were scarce, and some farmers were unable to collect 15ft drifts of snow to bring away thousands of gallons of milk and other foodstuffs.

Some industry began to operate yesterday, with workers walking long distances in freezing conditions. The 500 men who were trapped in the huge Port Talbot British Steel complex saved the plant from serious equipment losses by ensuring that blast furnaces did not cool down, but no steel will be manufactured at either Port Talbot or Llanwern until next week, and the financial loss to the corporation will be enormous.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, spent five hours in the air viewing the devastation.

After landing in Cardiff, Mr Edwards reported to Mrs Margaret Thatcher as she met colleagues in London. He dismissed criticism that an emergency centre should have been set up at the Welsh Office as nonsensical, as local

authorities had their own clearly defined emergency procedures.

Ambulance services were inundated by emergency calls and in Cardiff the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre was running short of blood.

Farmers were still fighting unsuccessfully to reach flocks of sheep on high mountain pastures and they fear that thousands of animals will die.

The scale of the disaster for old people living alone became apparent after BBC Radio Wales opened a help line. Pensioners trapped in houses without food or heat were able to appeal for help through the radio service. Scores of people responded.

Mrs Caroline Leyshon, aged 23, was airlifted to hospital by helicopter from a rugby club field at Glyncoed West, Glamorgan, and later gave birth to a son.

Scores of villages and isolated farms along the north Devon coast and on Exmoor remained cut off and without electricity for the fourth day yesterday. A police helicopter will scour the area today to see if anyone needs urgent help.

In some areas telephone lines are down, and water has been cut off to many homes.

Devon County Council, which had already exhausted its fund allocation for road cleaning emergencies before the snow fell on Thursday, has now spent an additional £1m.

## TELEVISION MICROCHIP LESSONS

By Robin Young

The BBC yesterday launched its computer literacy project, aimed at familiarizing school pupils, college students, small business people and television viewers at home with the language and capabilities of microcomputers.

The first in a series called *The Computer Programme* was shown for schools and colleges in the afternoon. It will be repeated on Sunday, February 14.

Acorn Computers, of Cambridge, has developed for the BBC a specially designed microcomputer system which can link up with an ordinary television set and any audio cassette recorder. The basic model costs £235.

The microcomputer can also couple with a teletext receiver, so computer programs can be transmitted through Ceefax with direct transmission to the home.

Beginners who buy a BBC microcomputer will receive an introductory package of simple programs on cassette tape. Those are intended to illustrate the system's facilities, and will be supplemented from May by a range of packages, including computer clubs and colleges, computer clubs and colleges, computer clubs and colleges.

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## ILEA fears court action if cuts damage schools

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The drastic cuts required to meet the Government's new spending targets for the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) could cause the authority to face court action if the cuts damage schools.

The authority could be taken to court, according to a report by the authority's chief financial officer and chief education officer.

Possible areas of saving suggested include leaving 90 per cent of all teaching and non-teaching staff vacancies unfilled; cutting students' discretionary awards to a minimum; stopping clothing grants; increasing the price of a school meal from 35p to 50p, and ending school milk.

Other provisions would involve cutting maintenance expenditure by half, with the risk of closing some buildings for long periods, and reducing the furniture and equipment budget by three quarters.

The report, which sets out four expenditure options, will be discussed by the ILEA Labour group at a meeting tomorrow. Mr Bryn Davies, the leader of the authority, will recommend that members ignore the Government's target and adopt a policy of moderate growth next year, despite warnings in the report about the authority's responsibility to ratepayers.

ILEA officers are clearly concerned about the implications of the recent Lords decision in the GLC fares case, in which three of the five Law Lords commented on the authority's obligation to take

account of the effect of their policies on ratepayers.

The authority estimates that it would need to spend £795m in the next financial year to maintain current policies. It would have to cut that by £115m if it was to achieve the spending target set by the Government.

Savings of that order could be achieved only by stopping spending wherever it was legally possible, and maintaining only such expenditure as necessary to keep the system running, the report says.

"No one could, at this level, guarantee that it would be possible to achieve this. Quite apart from the possibility of industrial action, the degree to which the quality of education suffered might bring us into the courts," it adds.

The Government has said to make spending cuts of more than 7 per cent next year, and has used that percentage cut as the basis for assessing ILEA's spending target for next year.

However, the report claims that a 15 per cent cut would be required. It points out that the Government based its figures on the original 1981-82 budget, not the increased budget brought in by the new Labour group after last May's elections, and that the increase for pay and prices, averaging 5.2 per cent, allowed by the Government is wholly inadequate.

Even if the authority achieved its target, it would still not be able to meet its obligations. It estimates that it would need to cut spending by £262m, or 36 per cent, to get the maximum possible grant of £125m, and would attract grant only when it had achieved a 16 per cent cut.

## Call for more GPs at hospital births

By Annabel Ferriman

Up to half of the babies born might be delivered by the family doctor in future, Mr Rastan Feroze, president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said yesterday.

If more pregnant women were looked after by their doctors, hospital antenatal clinics would be less crowded and concentrate more on those women who are likely to have complicated deliveries, he said.

Mr Feroze, introducing a report on training for family doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology at a press conference in London, said that doctors should be provided with beds in or near specialist obstetric units in hospitals.

They would enable the doctors to deliver many more low risk patients, in the certain knowledge that if complications arose, as they do in 10 per cent of low risk cases, the equipment and specialist staff would be available.

Family doctors should be provided with facilities for delivering babies because patients liked the continuity of care and many more GPs were trained in obstetrics. In the new three-year vocational training schemes that newly qualified doctors have to undertake to become general practitioners, a year is being devoted to six months of hospital obstetric care.

"If you train someone to do something, you have got to let them make use of their training when they finish," he said.

Only 14.3 per cent of babies were delivered by family doctors; in 1963 the figure was 45 per cent. Family doctors provide ante- and postnatal care in more than 70 per cent of births.

Mr Feroze said that the number of doctor deliveries had fallen because facilities had decreased and because obstetrics had become a more technical subject, which frightened some doctors. The fee paid to doctors for deliveries was also unrealistically low.

The report recommends that for those doctors wishing to provide full care, a six-month combined obstetric and gynaecological training should be the minimum requirement.

For those family doctors wishing to provide only shared antenatal care, with the patient visiting the hospital half the time and having her baby in hospital, a three-month combined obstetric and gynaecological training should be the minimum requirement.

Provision should be made for the small number who opt for home confinement, however, and the person best placed to manage them is the doctor experienced in obstetric work.

"We expect that in future in many practices there will be one or two partners who come into this category," the report says.

*Report on Training for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists by General Practitioners (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RG, £3).*

## Lambeth council may cut rates

By A Staff Reporter

Little needed parsimony by Mr Edward Knight, one of the best known municipal "over-spenders", could mean a reduction in Lambeth's rates for next year.

Mr Knight, the London Council's Labour leader, is to tell a party meeting on Thursday that the borough's 1982-83 budget may even go some way towards meeting the Government's demands for a 7 per cent spending cut, allowing Lambeth to claw back some rate support grant and cut rates.

Lambeth has benefited from a switch in government policy allowing for extra spending by councils deemed to have "household problems".

Mr Knight has also made some significant reductions in spending. For example, while it spent (in current cash terms) £354 a head of population in 1980-81, this year it is spending £330, which, at the rate of inflation, implies a real cut of nearly 10 per cent.

Some 3.4 per cent has already been cut from this year's planned spending, so that while the projected budget for 1982-83 remains up to £10m above the Government's £35m spending target, extra budgetary savings can be made.

Some Labour councillors are sure to demand that money be spent on services rather than on cutting rates. But Mr Knight is thought to favour a rates cut, which would help Lambeth's Labour image.

Lambeth's Labour group has agreed to defer over the increases in bus and Underground fares made necessary by the new London Transport fares.

At this afternoon's special meeting of the full council, only a minority of them will vote against a report from the council's finance and transport committee recommending a huge cut in subsidy to London Transport and a 250 per cent fares rise.

The Labour group agreed last night that the vote was not a real test of loyalty to the manifesto. It was held to be wrong to apply the whip because councillors were giving themselves open to charges and legal action if they rejected official advice in favour of a fares rise.

## Science report Stargazers run risk of sleeping sickness

By Pearce Wright

Professional astronomers need to be a hardy breed. To get the best view of the sky they often have to work through long, cold nights in unheated observatories.

But a new and more serious discomfort has arisen for the scientists using one of the largest observatories in the world, which has a cluster of 12 telescopes.

The buildings are being invaded by an insect known locally as a Vinchuca, which feeds exclusively on the blood of humans and other mammals. It bites and repels. When it bites its victim a vinchuca may transmit a parasitic infection that produces Chagas disease, causing sleeping sickness.

The infection has occurred at the European Southern Observatory, created by France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Sweden in 1962 to provide one of the few sites for surveying the skies of the Southern Hemisphere. The observatory is at La Silla, in the Atacama Desert, Chile, at an altitude of 7,500ft.

An account of the insect is contained in *The Messenger*, the organization's quarterly bulletin, which carries original astronomy papers of interest from universities throughout Europe who are using the observatory.

But the first item in the current issue is a report by Professor Hugo Schoonhoven, a microbiologist from the University of Chile, who has been called in to investigate measures for pest control.

The vinchuca inhabits nearly all the countries on the North American continent except Canada. But the type found in South America may carry the parasitic microbe, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, or Chagas disease.

The vinchuca does not inject the parasite when it bites, but on some occasions when it has sucked blood it defecates and contaminates the wound with the parasite. In most cases the vinchuca bite does not cause infection. When infection does occur, symptoms appear after a 10-day incubation period, followed by swelling of the place of the bite and a general fever.

After some weeks the symptoms disappear. Six months later the chronic phase begins, and lasts the life of the victim. However, two effective drugs exist.

*The Messenger No 25 (European Southern Observatory).*

## National parks 'need safeguards'

By Hugh Clayton

New policies are needed to safeguard the future of national parks, government sponsored researchers said yesterday.

The Tourism and Recreation Research Unit at Edinburgh University called for specific government guidelines to replace the present piecemeal approach to protecting scenic beauty.

Mr Brian Duffield, director of the unit, said in London: "This investigation is lacking at present, and without it there must be considerable doubts that the national parks will survive as we know them."

The unit wanted park policy to advance beyond the present piecemeal approach to protecting scenic beauty.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Arms theft not noticed for weeks

Weapons missing from an infantry regiment's armoury could have been stolen at any time over three weeks while soldiers were on Christmas leave, police said yesterday.

Four 9mm Browning semi-automatic pistols, all new and with magazines; a 9mm Stirling sub-machinegun and a 7.62mm self-loading rifle were taken from the armoury of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, at Oakington Barracks, near Cambridge, between December 17 and January 4.

An individual weapon sight for use with infantry weapons at night and a top slide for use with the 7.62 rifle were taken from another store at the barracks during the same period.

The theft was discovered when a sergeant armourer returned from leave on January 4. Since then police and the Army's Special Investigation Branch have been conducting a top-level inquiry involving police tracker dogs, helicopters, police divers and scores of detectives.

Better water to cost £21m

The Anglian water authority announced yesterday that it intends to spend £21m over the next five years on improving the quality of tap water to its five million customers between the Humber and the Thames.

The project is to be carried out because of increasing complaints about the colour, taste and smell of domestic supplies and about tiny "shrimps" which have been found in the water.

Youths kill pets in old people's home

Two youths who broke into an old people's homes complex in Leeds at the weekend stole £20 and cut a pet hamster and a budgie to pieces, police said yesterday.

Armed with knives, they smeared pieces of the hamster on a wall and threatened a woman before running off.

Murder case remand

Peter Alan Edmonds, aged 20, a soldier, of Coronation Road, Kingsbridge, Devon, was remanded in custody for a week by Torquay magistrates yesterday charged with murdering Mrs Beatrice Rowell, a widow, aged 84, at her home in Paignton.

Community role of police 'is Brixton lesson'

By Lucy Hodges

The new head of community relations at Scotland Yard said yesterday that in future the police would have to sell their policies to the public and involve people in what they were doing.

On the first day of his new job, Commander John Newing, aged 41, made clear that he did not favour "swamp" operations to catch muggers and robbers. But he added that at times vigorous and specific action was required against criminals.

"The lesson of Brixton is that we have got to take the community with us," he said. Commander Newing rejected a suggestion that by publicising operations to beat crime the police would defeat the object of the exercise.

Publicity might prevent crime, in the same way as the sight of traffic police lying in wait for law-breaking motorists prevented traffic offences.

When he was asked what he thought of "swamp" operations in Brixton the week before last April's riots, he said: "You are asking me to criticize one my colleagues."

"I might well have done exactly the same thing as that commander did. But since the Scarman report I am not likely to do it. We need to involve the community and take them with us."

Describing his new job as "a hot seat", the commander said he was in favour of recruiting more black policemen and developing the concept of community policing. To that end an experiment was being mounted by the Metropolitan and Surrey police forces in three areas of London, as yet unidentified.

But Mr Newing made clear that he was not impressed by a number of Lord Scarman's important recommendations.

On the issue of setting up statutory liaison machinery between the police and public he said: "It is not machinery and organizations that make things a success. It is the quality of the people involved."

Reform of the police complaints procedure would not necessarily change things or make anyone any happier, though increasing the independent element would enable people to see that justice was done. "I do think the complaints system is largely

misunderstood and I do not know that if you reform it it will operate better."

Commander Newing said he was in favour of racism awareness training for police officers, but did not like Lord Scarman's suggestion that officers guilty of racial prejudice should be automatically dismissed.

"Every policeman has got to be something of a community relations specialist," he said. Denying suggestions that community relations was considered "soft" and too much like social work by most officers, he declared: "A good policeman is a social worker."

From 1974 to 1977 the commander was a chief inspector in London dealing principally with race relations. He won a scholarship to Leeds University, from which he graduated in social and public administration. He takes over from Commander Malcolm Ferguson, who is moving to head a district in Tower Hamlets.

Commander Newing's last job was commandant of the police recruit training college in Hendon.

Two policemen were committed for trial yesterday accused of killing a man during the riots in the Toxteth district of Liverpool last summer (the Press Association reports).

Constable James Keenan, aged 29, and Sergeant Keith Andrew Wilkinson, aged 36, did not speak throughout the five-minute hearing before magistrates at Liverpool. The officers were both granted unconditional bail.

They are accused of unlawfully killing Mr David Moore aged 23 of St Nathaniel Street, Toxteth, between July 28 and 29 last.

Legal aid was extended at the request of Mr Kevin Dooley, representing the two men. Prosecution costs of £800 were granted after a submission by Miss Diane Shamman, for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Girl killed with scarf

An army combat scarf was used to murder Janet Cheetham, aged 17, whose body was found near her home in Braithwaite Close, Rainhill, Merseyside, just before Christmas, police revealed yesterday.

Royal gibe led Harvey Smith to assault man

Harvey Smith, the international showjumper, was fined £75 yesterday for assaulting a man who was said to have insulted the Royal Family.

Smith, aged 43, of Craiglands, High Eldwick, near Bingley, West Yorkshire, admitted assaulting Mr Stephen Rusling causing him actual bodily harm after a dinner at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate, last August.

Harrogate magistrates were told that Mr Rusling, of Ferry Road, Healey, north Humberstone, had remarked that the Royal Family ought to be exterminated.

Mr Wilfred Anderson, for the prosecution, said the two men were sitting at separate tables. Conversation turned to how people earned their money and there was reference to Smith's sponsorship by the Japanese company, Sanyo.

Mr Anderson said Smith asked if anyone knew of anyone who was paid for doing little or nothing and someone shouted "Prince Charles". Mr Rusling was said to have remarked: "Well there's one" and then a blow to his head knocked him off his chair. Smith said to have told him: "Nobody calls the Royal Family in front of me."

The prosecution alleged that Mr Rusling was punched and kicked, suffering a swollen lip and a bump on the head. Mr Rusling said Smith told him: "I will kick anyone who is not a royalist."

Mr Roger Whittaker, for Smith, said it was not accepted that even one blow was struck, although Smith did admit pulling Mr Rusling off his chair.

"Mr Smith is a very fit, strong man who keeps himself in good shape. If he had punched this man in the face with sufficient force to knock him off his chair his injuries would have been far worse," Mr Whittaker said.

Smith was an ardent royalist and came to the defence of the Prince of Wales when his name was mentioned, he said. The conversation got worse and then Mr Rusling uttered the remark that the Queen and her family ought to be exterminated.

Mr Whittaker said Smith grabbed Mr Rusling and pulled him off his chair. It was Smith's arm around his face that caused the injury. In Smith's mind the words uttered amounted almost to treason.



Political support: Mrs Shirley Williams, who pulled a knee ligament in a Christmas Day tobogganing accident, arriving yesterday with her crutches at the Social Democratic Party headquarters in Cowley Street, Westminster, for the first time since leaving hospital on Friday.

Hospital's £5m repairs bill

By Nicholas Timmins

The £6m cardiac wing at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, London, barely occupied since its completion in June, 1980, will cost at least £5m and take three years to repair, the hospital said yesterday.

The nine-storey, 50-bed wing, designed to be the most advanced paediatric cardiac unit in the country, had to be evacuated last year because of fears that it might collapse.

A detailed structural report has concluded that the building is repairable. It will, however, require a health ministry decision on whether the building is repaired, demolished at a cost of about £1.5m, or mothballed.

Mr Grahame Humphreys, deputy house governor of the hospital, said yesterday: "The board of governors would obviously like to see it repaired, but the strategic decision must be made by the minister."

The wing, which was started 1976, represents one of the worst building disasters in the National Health Service. It cost more than £3m to build and contains more than £2m of diagnostic equipment.

Shortly after the building was handed over an external walkway beam, designed to provide access for exterior maintenance, collapsed. Further studies found faults in other beams, and a high-level link to the Institute of Child Health next door was considered unsafe. Cracks appeared and the concrete caps on the foundation piles were found to be too thin.

In addition, support for the 60-ton water tanks was declared inadequate and they were hastily emptied, and support for some floor slabs will need strengthening.

The building is not expected to be fully operational until some time in 1984, the hospital said — legal action is planned to try to recoup the cost of the repairs.

Whitehall brief

Testing time for the Bank's governor

By Bernard Donoghue

Whitehall's upper ranks are this week nervously awaiting a ministerial decision which, either way, will shatter some glass.

The Monopolies Commission report on the rival bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland by the Standard Chartered Bank and by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation went to Mr John Biffen at the Department of Trade on December 22. Since then its recommendations have been circulated among relevant departments amid a spate of leaks that the report has recommended against either bid.

The issue is due to come before ministers this week or next and they could, in theory, insist that Mr Biffen overrules any negative finding by the commission. But on past experience the Secretary of State normally accepts the commission's findings and the Cabinet, if consulted, backs him.

Such a conclusion, if the leaks are correct, will appear a triumph for the Bank of England. The governor, Mr Gordon Richardson, has made his hostility towards the Hongkong bank absolutely clear both to the Government and to the Monopolies commission.

Many in Whitehall believe he had hinted that for him this could be a resigning issue.

That threat from its central banking chief could not be taken lightly. However, it is not a weapon that can often be brought into play, because Mrs Margaret Thatcher apparently would not be too devastated by that prospect.

As a senior Treasury official remarked: "If he again says 'over my dead body', then she might say 'thank you' and bury him'."

The sad fact is that the Prime Minister and the Governor do not hit it off. The chemistry just does not mix. Mr Richardson has brought dignity and authority to this crucial position. But he is very conservative, and very very Establishment.

Mrs Thatcher is certainly very right-wing, but she is refreshingly radical and blames the old Establishment almost as much as Labour for the economic and industrial mess which she claims she inherited. Curiously, in some ways she has more in common with the thriving and entrepreneurial Hongkong bank than with the governor.

The Prime Minister and the governor meet quite often, of course, at social functions. But they meet officially at a very secret Downing Street committee which is unknown to most ministers and has convened only four times since 1979. It was invented in 1976 by Mr James Callaghan and his principal private secretary, Sir Kenneth Howe.

Then called "the seminar" to distinguish it from orthodox Cabinet committees, it was intended as a forum for the Prime Minister to open up various policy questions, such as the exchange rate, interest rates, money supply targets, techniques for selling government debt, which were previously decided in the Bank and the Treasury with very little political input.

With Mr Denis Healey, Mr Harold (now Lord) Leveson, and a few senior officials and personal advisers present, it became under Mr Callaghan an important instrument of policy-making.

Mrs Thatcher has used this committee less frequently and more narrowly, discussing mainly domestic monetary questions, such as the abolition of minimum lending rate last summer. She involves many more officials than her predecessor. Sir Geoffrey Howe and, occasionally, Mr John Nott, attend from Cabinet. But the dominating figures are clearly Mrs Thatcher and the Governor.

Nobody is left in any doubt that the Prime Minister considers that the bank's technical handling of monetary policy has at times been less than professional. She also clearly suspects that Threadneedle Street is an undrainable bog of "wetness".

That is unfair to the governor, whose personal commitment to defeat inflation matches the Prime Minister's. But the bank does contain many soft neo-Keynesians and its lofty contempt for the policies of Mrs Thatcher and her Chancellor, often expressed privately at City lunches and last month openly paraded in the *Wall Street Journal*, cannot have eased relations between the Bank and No 10.

If, as rumoured, the governor is winning the present battle, few of the officials involved believe it will improve that situation.

Business News, pages 11, 13.

He's got city councillors afraid to answer their own doorbells.

Mel Smith is Tom Craig.  
'MUCK AND BRASS'  
Tuesdays 9p.m.

CENTRAL



## S Africans may cede tribal land to Swazis

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Jan 11

South Africa is considering ceding to Swaziland territory at present occupied by the KaNgwane and KwaZulu black tribal homelands, it was learnt here today.

Swaziland, a former British protectorate which became an independent kingdom under King Sobhuza II in 1968, has laid claim to the whole of the KaNgwane homeland, a small strip of land adjoining northern border of Swaziland, and for a chunk of KwaZulu lying between Swaziland and the Indian Ocean.

The Swazi authorities contend that these territories are part of their ancestral lands taken from them by the British.

About 160,000 Swazis live in KaNgwane and the part of KwaZulu in dispute also contains a sizeable Swazi population.

Tribal leaders in the two homelands have contested Swaziland's claims. The Chief Minister of KaNgwane, Mr. E. J. Mabuza, has accused Pretoria of encouraging the territorial claims as a means of depriving South African-born Swazis of their South African citizenship.

Chief Gaishe Buthelesi, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, the most effective black politician outside prison, maintains that Ingwavuma, the area of KwaZulu claimed by Swaziland, has been part

## US hearing opens on Playboy casino

From Our Correspondent New York, Jan 11

An hearing opened in New Jersey today to decide if Mr. Hugh Hefner and his Playboy Enterprises can continue to operate a casino there.

At stake is Playboy's right to run the \$13m 500-room Playboy Hotel and casino on Atlantic City's boardwalk, where gambling is legal. New Jersey law enforcement officials have raised questions about the company's qualifications.

Playboy is best known for its magazine; but gambling now makes most of the money. Mr. Hefner will probably attend the hearing in two weeks' time. The same week hearings begin in Britain on an appeal against the loss of licences at two Playboy casinos. A court found that both casinos broke gambling laws, and Playboy then decided to sell all its British gambling operations.

Playboy has been operating the Atlantic City casino on a temporary licence, which is due to expire this month. The hearings today are about its application for a permanent gambling licence. The proceedings are conducted by the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, which will have before it a report on Playboy compiled by the New Jersey Attorney General's division of gaming enforcement.

## Bihar: the sewer of Indian life

## Delhi watches helplessly as its problem state slides into barbarism

From Trevor Fishlock, Patna, Jan 11

Bihar is India's sewer. Corruption, gangsterism, intimidation and the corrosions of standards in public life combine to give the state a nightmarish quality, a world turned upside down.

That students make their cribs and books into examinations is hardly remarkable here any more. Education, like much else in Bihar, is in a mess. The Government in Delhi seems helpless as the state slides into barbarism, its decline punctuated increasingly by violence.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, who says that India is her family and that many call her mother, knows that Bihar is a state where many millions of her figurative children are the grossly exploited victims of landlords, thugs, politicians, policemen and public servants.

They are the serfs in a feudal system. They are cowed, effectively disfranchised and miserably paid by a ruling class, hallmarked by cynicism, greed and a determination to maintain its tyranny.

Much of Bihar's bloodshed and brutality springs from the efforts of the high caste masters to keep the low caste masses beneath the hatches. The climate in Bihar today is such that many people are afraid to speak out. Those who do tend to be pessimistic, anguished or resigned.

A professor in Patna said: "Hardly anyone now talks of morality, honesty or example. In Bihar today honesty simply means a lack of opportunity to make money corruptly. There is a collapse of standards."

"Welcome to hell", Mr. Deenabhai Jha, editor of the *Indian Nation*, said in his Patna office. His newspaper is one of two under pressure from the state Government for publishing critical reports. The ruling Congress Party complains that the papers spoil the image of the Government and the prestige of party men. Many in Patna believe the Government is trying to close the papers. "We shall go down fighting", Mr. Jha said.

Thirty per cent of state legislators are involved in criminal cases. Even members of the ruling party have alleged that the regime of Mr. Jagannath Mishra, the Chief Minister, is corrupt.

Three years ago a state minister, Mr. Kapildev Singh, said in the state parliament that he used *gomdas* (toughs) when fighting elections and that all politicians did so whether they admitted it or not. There is no reason to believe the situation has changed.

When I asked villagers if they had ever voted they said no. They made pistols out of their fingers and said they were kept away from polling booths by *condas* guns.



Anarchy is complete. The state, which has 70 million people, is rich in resources, including two fifths of India's mineral wealth, but it is badly managed. Of its 44 public undertakings, 38 are cratically in the red.

The great majority of people work on the land as marginal farmers and landless labourers. They are in the thrall of landlords and their cast allies who have much of the police force on their side. The ruling elite has contempt for the law and pays well below the minimum legal wage.

The police have, by and large, become the enemies of the people. Recently an officer of rare integrity was removed for being too successful in cleaning up crime in a north Bihar district. The villagers were dismayed to see him go; they believed Mrs. Gandhi had sent him to relieve theirretchedness.

## Spy agency feuds with police in Spain

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Jan 11

Evidence of a feud between Spain's main intelligence service, the Centre for Advanced Studies (CESID), and the National Police (Policia Nacional), leaked out here today after the embarrassing capture of a Spanish spy on a questionable mission.

Police sources revealed unofficially that CESID gave them false or misleading information on more than one occasion, and maintained a sceptical attitude about a denial from the Defence Ministry that a CESID agent taken into custody in Madrid last Thursday was involved in the surveillance of a judge who recently sent another CESID agent to prison.

Among other things, the struggle between the two organizations, one under the control of the defence ministry and the other under the control of the interior ministry, probably reflects the annoyance of certain high-ranking police officials with right-wing sympathies over the intensified campaign by the military intelligence service to ferret out evidence of right-wing plans.

The liberal Madrid newspaper *Diario 16* today suggested that better coordination of the efforts of the law enforcement agencies could be achieved by transferring control of the intelligence service to the Prime Minister's office.

## Son Sann ready to step up war

By Simon Scott Plummer Increased guerrilla activity in Cambodia was needed to force Vietnamese troops to leave, the leader of one of the resistance groups said in London yesterday.

Mr. Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), because economic and political pressure on Hanoi had failed to force it to withdraw. Vietnam has about 200,000 soldiers in Cambodia supporting the government of Mr. Heng Samrin.

Mr. Sann, a former Prime Minister, said the KPNLF needed humanitarian, financial and military aid. The 114,000 people in the zone controlled by the front along the Thai-Cambodian border were short of food, medicine, clothes and farming implements.



Mr. Son Sann: looking for military aid.

General Dien Del, the front's military commander, who is accompanying Mr. Sann on his European tour, said he had about 8,000 armed men along the border and would welcome arms.

Mr. Sann is due to meet Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, today. Mr. Sann said he thought the Communist Khmer Rouge, the main armed resistance group in Cambodia, would accept before the end of January the proposal for a loose coalition with the KPNLF and the Mouloukha faction of Prince Sihanouk, the former head of state. The three groups have agreed that Mr. Sann should be prime minister of Cambodia once the Vietnamese have withdrawn.

## Servants paid off in Zimbabwe

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, Jan 11

Hundreds of domestic servants have been dismissed in Zimbabwe by employers who claim they cannot afford the new minimum wage which came into effect at the beginning of the year.

The employers, who had been told that anyone dismissing servants without government permission would be liable for prosecution, took advantage of a gap of a week between the gazetting of regulations and their introduction on January 1.

Part-time workers who were not covered by previous minimum wage regulations and who were consequently most open to financial exploitation have been worst affected.

However, others, mindful of the deteriorating prospects of finding other employment, have apparently come to secret arrangements with their employers to accept less than the minimum.

The wage of \$250 (about £37) a month is just one aspect of a new deal for servants drawn up by the Government and announced on Christmas Eve. The new regulations require, in addition that servants work no more than a 54-hour week with at least one full day off and receive two weeks' annual leave.

It is, in the main, not these regulations which have caused many employers to balk, but what are cited as anomalies in the new system.

Part-timers, for instance, must be paid 90 per cent of the minimum although working perhaps only three days a week. The Minister of Labour, to warn last week that anyone firing staff could be fined \$21,000 or be jailed for three months.

The vast majority of Zimbabwe's 180,000 whites and many of the growing number of affluent blacks employ a household servant, and many also have a gardener. Until independence there were no regulations governing wages or conditions of service, although some months later a minimum wage of \$230 was established.

## Begin wants US to take case of Soviet dissident

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan 11

The Israeli Government announced today that Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, will formally request Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, to take up the case of Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky, who is serving a 13-year sentence in the Soviet Union for allegedly cooperating with the Central Intelligence Agency. The request will be made when Mr. Haig arrives in Israel on Thursday.

The announcement coincided with the release of a number of grim details of the conditions being endured by Mr. Shcharansky, a dissident who last week received his first visit from relatives in 18 months.

According to his wife Avital (who was expelled from the Soviet Union the day after her wedding in 1974) the new information has cast serious doubts on his ability to survive his sentence. Recently this has been amended to include a longer period in prison, rather than the less harsh surroundings of a labour camp.

Mrs. Shcharansky spoke emotionally about the visit which her husband's 75-year-old mother and his 35-year-old brother were allowed to pay to Christopol prison last week. The conversation took place by internal telephone through a double glass partition and was monitored by an agent of the secret police, the KGB.

It emerged that Mr. Shcharansky had spent 130 days of 1981 in solitary confinement because of "punishments imposed for his determined efforts to practice the Jewish religion inside jail."

Conditions in the cell were described to correspondents by Mr. Yosef Mendelevich, another prisoner who was allowed to come to Israel last year after nearly 11 years in Soviet prisons including Christopol.

"The cells have concrete floors with a bed board that is locked up during the day", he explained.

Mr. Shcharansky told his mother that last August he collapsed from lack of nourishment and spent 33 days in the prison hospital.

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With the Jim Davidson Show at 7.30, Don't Rock The Boat at 8.00 and Muck and Brass at 9.00, you can't help looking at the bright side this evening.

THE BEST VIEW IN LONDON.

# Malaysian minister leapt to safety in air crash

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11

Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, was found alive and in good shape today nearly 30 hours after the light aircraft he was travelling in crashed in the jungle about 25 miles north-west of here.

From his hospital bed, the minister described how he became the only survivor in the crash. He unbuckled his seat belt and jumped out seconds before the aircraft crashed into a hill, he said.

He suffered cuts on his right hand from the broken windscreen, but he carried on until he found a stream where he washed himself. He tried to seek help but eventually darkness prevented him from going any further.

He then tried to sleep but could not, thinking all the time of the fate of the other two men. He only learnt that they were dead after his rescue.

He said he was not piloting the aircraft, although he was taking over the radio when the aircraft crashed. Datuk Musa Hitam, the Deputy Prime Minister, described his collec-

tion's survival as "just fantastic".

He was found about 65 yards from the crash site at the village of Janda Baik about two hours after rescue workers had recovered the bodies of his two companions from the wreckage.

The wreckage was located by an aerial search party eight hours after the single engine light aircraft crashed while carrying Tan Sri Ghazali and the two other men to a political meeting in his constituency in Kuala Lumpur.

The minister was then flown to a hospital here for a general check-up. A very confident Tan Sri Ghazali, none the worse for his experiences, said on landing: "I'm alive and can walk."

Another helicopter lifted the bodies of Chazan Duan, a security aide, and Venkatesh Chako, the chief flying instructor at the Royal Selangor Flying Club, from an improvised landing pad that had been cut in the jungle this morning. Post mortem examinations are to be carried out before they are buried.

The minister, a civil servant turned politician, is one of the best known figures in Malaysia. He was appointed Foreign Minister last July, when Datuk Sri Mahathir Muhammad, the new Prime Minister, formed his first administration. Before that he had served as Home Minister for eight years. But his attempts to win the party leadership failed every time as he was outmanoeuvred by successive parliamentary elections.

He came into politics after 14 years as head of the foreign service, during which he was involved in every foreign policy initiative since Malaysia won its independence from Britain in 1957. He was a key figure in Malaysia's confrontation with Indonesia, and later in restoring close ties with Jakarta. He was also instrumental in the formation of Malaysia and of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

Ironically, he has yet to represent Malaysia as Foreign Minister at an Asean foreign ministers' annual meeting.

## Position of unique power for Argentine leader

From Patrick Knight, Buenos Aires

When they assumed power in 1976 after the fall of the chaotic and corrupt government of Senator Isabel Peron, Argentina's military rulers set about what they called the process of national reorganisation. The two subsequent Presidents, General Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, proclaimed a belief in the need to make Argentina a democracy.

General Leopoldo Galtieri, the new President, repeated the promise in his inaugural address made just before Christmas, and said that he would continue talking to leaders of the political parties, though he gave no timetable for elections.

The armed forces in Argentina are perpetually concerned about preventing the emergence of another strong figure from within their own ranks who will be able to behave like President Juan Peron and take the country where he virtually wishes, and they have tried to construct checks and balances to prevent this. The result has been an apparatus where it is easy to paralyse the decision-making while the Argentine people have always responded to a strong man.

Although General Videla, the first of the present cycle initially combined the position with that of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and thus had a seat on the Junta of Commanders which is the final arbiter here, President Videla, who was already a retired officer when he assumed the presidency, as the rules then dictated, did not.

He found himself hampered by constantly having to refer virtually every decision to the Junta, on which the



General Jorge Videla: Had the advantage of a seat on the Junta.

dominant figure was General Galtieri. The result was stalemate, and the impression in the past few months, that Argentina has been rudderless.

President Videla, and more recently President Viola, had been discreetly trying to work towards a *modus vivendi* with the political parties, with eventual elections as an aim.

One proviso would be that the army would undertake not to press the Army for an explanation as to the means used to wipe out guerrillas in the 1970s. Most of Argentine public opinion would accept such a solution over the estimated 10,000 dead.

Many observers in Buenos Aires feel that even if President Galtieri does not yet realize it, there is now no way for the military to regain their prestige and the freedom of manoeuvre they have lost during the past five years of mismanagement of the economy.

## BIG CUTS IN SWEDISH SPENDING

From Our Correspondent, Stockholm, Jan 11

Wide ranging public spending cuts, aimed at saving more than 12 billion kronor (£1.2 billion), were announced in a budget presented to Parliament today by Mr Rolf Wirtén, the Budget Minister. The intention is to reduce a national debt currently standing at about £28 billion.

Mr Wirtén said the cuts would fall over the whole range of government spending, and would be specified in a series of bills to be introduced in the spring.

An estimated 2 billion Kronor would be saved by cutting public benefits, he said. That is likely to result in increased medical and dental fees as government support is cut. Some student grants will also be reduced.

The Budget Department said that adjustments would be made to sickness benefit payments. These are now paid from the first day of any illness. It is likely that in future they will be paid only from the third day of sickness.

## Libyan cash follows end of rift with Ghana

From Geoffrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 11

In its first foreign policy initiative Ghana's new military government today re-established diplomatic relations with Libya, broken off in November 1980, by the civilian Government overthrown here on New Year's Eve.

Radio Accra, quoted by AFP in Abidjan, said the announcement had been followed by Libyan financial aid and a promise of food supplies.

President Hilla Limann's Government, toppled 12 days ago by the Provisional National Defence Council led by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, accused Colonel Gaddafi's Government of subversive activities in Ghana

## Press curb relaxed in Pakistan

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 11

General Zia ul Haq, the Pakistan leader, today relaxed press censorship, except for reports concerning the Army and the Judiciary. He announced this at the inauguration of his nominated 350 member advisory council, saying that today was a memorable day and one which would have a deep impact on the nation's life.

General Zia said he was replacing his 10-year-old censorship with self-censorship for all daily newspapers in Pakistan provided they observed four guiding principles. These prohibited publication of news or views harmful to Pakistan and the ideology of Islam; endangering national security; prejudicing the dignity of the armed forces and judiciary; and encouraging communal religious prejudices.

He said he hoped that the federal council would help him revive democracy, the country he told its members that they were in the council as his nominees in a personal capacity and were not elected political leaders. But he asked the council to tell the Government what kind of democracy should be introduced in Pakistan and what should be its salient features.

He said he and his military colleagues remained committed to their desire that the country should remain in the hands of the people who truly deserve it. He was neither against democracy nor against elections. But the currently popular idea of democracy was not a holy book which could not be amended.

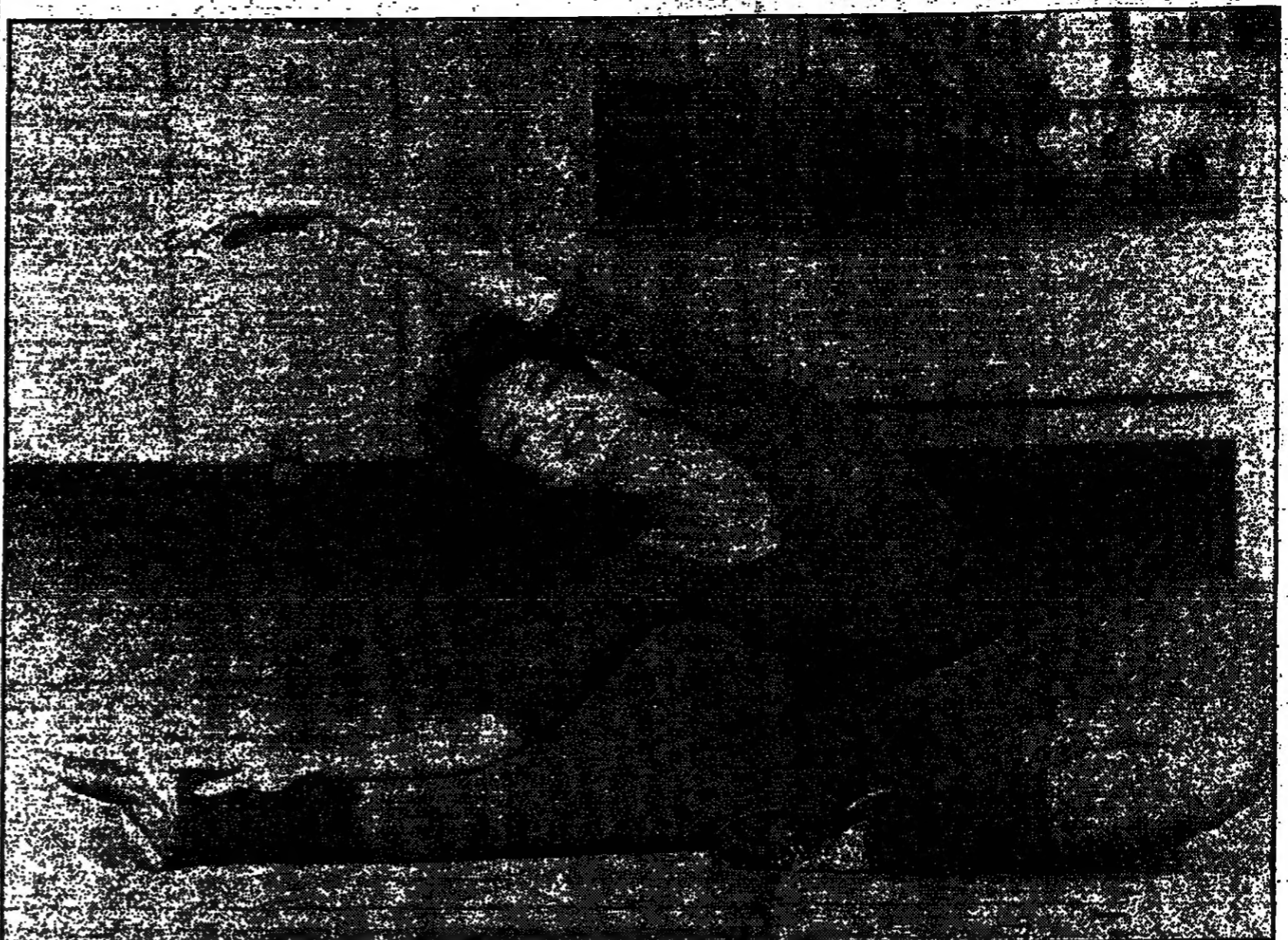
He asked the Federal Council to play an active role in Pakistan which he said had remained free from any serious political commotion for four and half years. He recognised that the country continued to suffer from the ills of corruption, violent crime and theft, a high cost of living and widespread illiteracy. He emphasized the need to take action on these matters and pointed out that unemployment had become a serious problem.

The Federal Council will hear during its six-day session a Policy statement from Mr Asghar Shaukat, the Foreign Minister, and will consider the issues raised in it.

AMNESTY CRITICISM: Respect for human rights has deteriorated steadily in Pakistan under the regime of President Zia, particularly during the past year, Amnesty International says in its latest report on the country (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Since the beginning of 1981, Amnesty has received a growing number of reports that political prisoners are being held incommunicado and substantial evidence has emerged that prisoners are being tortured systematically, the report claims.

## Action fashion by Suzy Menkes



## Warm-up

The only way to take January is lying down — with your legs stretched upwards and your stomach flattened to the floor.

Three weeks of festive indulgence and excess demand a ritual purgation. First the resolve to eat No More Nuts. Then the planned exercise programme to get you back into shape.

No. First the clothes. There is nothing more depressing than facing grey skies, a puffy tummy and the same old winter wardrobe. A New Year resolve to turn from a fat caterpillar into a slender butterfly demands a new cocoon of comfortable and cheery clothes. You can combine the desire to be warm with the idea of limbering up, by investing in the new breed of exercise clothes — all-in-one ribbed woolies, a sweetheart cardigan lapping the torso, or a flirty tu-tu to wear with trousers if you must.

Just as everyone now believes in exercise, we all now wear action clothes. Five years ago that meant a

transformation of specialist sports wear like leotards and track suits, by making them in fun colours and fancy fabrics.

The action clothes revolution now goes much deeper than that. When I was in New York before Christmas, I was struck by the sense that sportswear is all. In particular the "sweats" — separates made out of supple sweatshirt fabric — now dominate the young fashion floors.

American designer Norma Kamali launched a body-shaped collection of easy-to-wear clothes that threaten to engulf the once ubiquitous jeans. The idea of suffering to be beautiful has always been a part of fashion. But fewer women are now willing to put up with ridiculous or uncomfortable clothes. Sweats have the overwhelming merit of being relatively cheap, easy to maintain (out of the washing machine and on to your back) and wearable both for leisure and for work.

Working at the body beautiful is an all-American pastime. Contin-

tal women used to be known for moulding their bodies into shape with the right beauticians and the best bras. The American approach is predictably much less supine. You pick your body programme, dance, yoga, dance exercise, gymnastics, swimming — and you work at it with the same enthusiasm that you put into your career or your analysis.

Since most of the women I spoke to seemed to have a stronger fixation on their sports instructors than on their analysts, I feel that psychiatry may no longer be a growth industry.

We British used to take Wilde's view of exercise that one should lie down until the feeling passes. But a new book setting out an Open University Course (*The Good Health Guide*, Pan £5.95) suggests that we are at last taking a real interest in healthy living.

Graphic illustrations (a pot-bellied beldam man supine before the TV or a series of Charlie Chaplin film

stills of man against machine) punctuate a book that is sensibly divided between physical health (like eating patterns) and psychological stresses (like work or depression).

*The Good Health Guide* (published in association with the Health Education Council) is particularly sensible about exercise. It defines different areas of fitness, such as suppleness, strength and stamina, and devises a simple fitness test: run up and down a flight of 15 steps three times and try to hold a conversation without getting breathless. If you want to be more active, the book has suggestions of sports and exercises and also shows you how to plan to change and improve, and how to select an activity most suited to your own needs.

But reason not the need. Is there a woman among us who does not yearn for a better body? Taking exercise or taking up a sport, right now, a less painful alternative to looking in the mirror.



■ Top: Super stretch in a ribbed wool all-in-one footless leotard £22.50; leg-warmers £5.95; leather 'Jazz skins' £11.85. All from Pineapple Dance Studios, 7 Langley Street, WC2; p & p 75p each. Elastic belt at waist. Freeds, St Martin's Lane, WC2.

■ Above left: At the bar in a mini tu-tu in sweat-shirt fabric £16.99 by Muscle from Pacific, South Molton Street, W1; Fit, 396 King's Road, SW10; Down to Earth, Hove; Stunning Rags, Brighton. Snowflake leg-warmers £2.99; Jump Accessories: Leather ballerina pumps £24.95, Bertie, South Molton Street, W1 and branches.

■ Above: Warming-up in a cross-over practice cardy £8.25, Freeds; 64 St Martin's Lane, WC2. Striped strapless 'Bumble' leotard £8.20; Striped leg-warmers £7.50. Both from Dance Centre, 112 Floral Street, WC2; p & p 75p each. White thermolactyl leggings from £8.30. Darnat, Bingley, West Yorks, and Darnat shops. White tights, Charnos, Leather ballerina pumps £14.99, Sacha branches.

■ Left: Leaping into action in a track-suit-shaped sweater and leggings £37.50, Dance Centre, 112 Floral Street, WC2; p & p £15.00. Lurex leg-warmers £3. Pineapple Dance Studios, Langley Street, WC2. Leather pumps £10.50, Fit, 396 King's Road, SW10.

Photographs by Serge Krougikoff. Hair by Anthony at Toni & Guy.

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## Prisoners of conscience



## Philippines:

Juliet Delima-Sison

By Caroline Moorehead

Juliet Delima-Sison, aged 42, wife of the first chairman of the Communist Party set up in 1968, gave birth to a boy in the medical wing of Fort Bonifacio's Military Security Unit in Manila on December 6. She has been in detention since November 1977. The baby is the result of a conjugal visit arranged with her husband, Jose Maria Sison, held in the same prison.

It has recently been the practice to release pregnant women, or where there are already children and both parents are detained, one parent. There is no sign that Juliet Delima-Sison is about to be freed.

After her arrest she and her husband were charged with subversion, rebellion and membership of the illegal Communist party.

She has been kept under excessively harsh conditions, often in isolation or blindfolded, and in a cell measuring 4ft by 11ft.

The Military Security Unit is normally only for non-interrogation; long term political prisoners are moved to other jails.

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THE ARTS

Television

Creature comforts

It is tough to be a snake. All you want is to keep out of the light, out of the way of human beings, and mind your own business, which is fairly useful, ecologically, getting rid of rodents and things. You are so retiring by nature that you do not even go out to eat often. With a swallow like yours you can get by on 10 or 12 meals a year, but that is too many for some people. They just will not leave you alone.

In Sweetwater, Texas, for instance, they all come along every spring, poking in the rocks with sticks, catching you, killing you, and ceremoniously eating you. They get quiet hysterical about it and, like everything else in Texas, hysteria has to be big. It is enough to make you hiss, which you do for quite a long time before ever taking a bite. In all, if you were a snake, you would be thinking it was time somebody put the record straight and got Adam off the snake's back.

Well, last night, BBC2's *Horizon* did. They are always eager to look at something new. I, for one, think differently about snakes now, though, programmed as I am, it will be some time before their rehabilitation is complete.

*Horizon* explored our deepest fears about the snake, explaining how its jaws move independently to give it that massive swallow, and allowed a snake to demonstrate which was scientifically fascinating but visually terrifying and not the type of thing

that would call for an encore outside a science faculty. Snakes, it is clear, are more sinned against than sinning. They bite infrequently and such bites are by no means always fatal. It now appears that even their venom, pejorative word, may be harnessed to man's aid.

Enzymes from the Malayan pit viper's venom have been shown to ease circulatory problems and in Miami there is a man, Bill Haast, who has been bitten 137 times, has lived to tell the tale into his seventies, and believes that the venom he now extracts daily from his snakes is relieving sufferings from multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Many of them think so, too.

This has been pool-pooched by the properly cautious American Multiple Sclerosis Association but has now attracted respectable scientific interest and research. *Horizon* reported on this and interviewed scientific optimists and doubters and it appears the doubters may be in for a surprise for the other side now includes experts once enlisted to knock it all down.

So the viper of our memory may turn out to be some men's best friend and we should be thankful to *Horizon* and the producer Stephen Rose for a memorable journey down one of fear's highways. Those who missed it can have a second bite, as it were, on Sunday.

Dennis Hackett

London debuts

Pianistic contrast

Two sharply contrasted performances of Beethoven's A flat Op 110 Piano Sonata, one at each end of the week, crystallized the emerging characters of their respective players. Debut in the piano, choose this testing work, and choose it often, at their peril: for Christine Haraisch, making her first appearance in England from Switzerland, its immaculate tailoring revealed a shrewd musical intelligence and, in the Adagio, a sensitive aural imagination not yet bravely enough projected. Her deft, rather mechanical finger-work in her Liszt Etudes and Chopin Scherzo tended to skim over the surface of the music: when anchored by more arm power, a greater richness of tone and more confident interpretative projection, Miss Haraisch's playing should burgeon into performance.

David Johnson, on the other hand, coming from the United States to make his London debut, had all the sound, fury and confidence of a seasoned performer, but managed to make even his most noble lines signify a precious little. The very technical facility, fluency and colour with which he glided a rather over-romantic reading of Bach's Partita No 1 were gradually revealed to be little more than an albeit very efficient apparatus for a

disturbingly glib, even callous conception of much of what he played.

Two cello recitals were happier occasions. Lowri Blake and Janice Dawson were giving their Wigmore debut: their already wide experience in recital work together showed in their confident, assured musicianship, and richness and maturity of rapport. I found more to arrest and hold my attention in Miss Dawson's vividly imaginative, deeply musical pianism than in either of the week's soloists, while the supple, warm-voiced yet rigorously disciplined energy of Miss Blake's cello playing was ideally suited to Richard Strauss's too rarely performed Sonata in F.

Jonas Borrett, with her competent but dull accompanist, Timothy Carey, chose an Elegy and Scherzo by her teacher Christopher YOUNG, here more reflective, finely lyrical playing a perfect vehicle for its English pastoral melancholy, its darting pizzicati and harmonics. Her tendency to anticipate and blur the intonation of a note at the beginning of a phrase or at its climax point was cruelly revealed in her courageous underplaying of one of Bach's unaccompanied cello suites.

Hilary Finch

Opera

Ponnelle's blood-red obsession

Turandot

Oper der Stadt Kohn

Elektra in pursuit of revenge for Agamemnon was never more obsessed with blood than Jean-Pierre Ponnelle in his production of *Turandot* for the Cologne Opera. It stains the swords of the guards who harass the terrified peasants in the opening scene, it is congealed on the heads of Turandot's former suitors stuck on poles. Ping, Pang and Pong lament their homesickness before a blood-red drop curtain and, at her moment of surrender to Calaf, Turandot flings off her white cloak to reveal a blood-red gown. At crucial moments, it colours the lighting plan.

Ponnelle is always vivid when suggesting cruelty. In *Turandot*, he has material ready-made. A gigantic figure squats, oriental and impassive, dominating the stage. It houses a door from which the Prince of Persia is flung out to execution, the head is the throne from which three old Altoun watch the recurring ritual. The Prince is tormented by malicious dwarfs in his last moments. Ping, Pang and Pong become characters in which the people's lust for death and fear of it are personalized, their trio a moving concentration of Ponnelle's idea. Since Claudio Nicolai, Erling Vigfusson and Roelof Oostwood are so responsive to it, and since at this stage Nello Santi's handling of the score (always perceptive and alive to Puccini's textures) takes on an added tenderness, the point is well made.

Ponnelle has his own way of killing off his characters. Though the executioner is on hand with sword raised, the Persian is guillotined, suggesting that the ancient Chinese invented the instrument of centuries before the French. Liu stabs herself not with a dagger seized from a guard, but with a knife Calaf has raised ready to kill her torturer.

Here Ponnelle's intention is clear. Calaf is ruthlessly objective. He is prepared to



The huge figure dominating the stage

kill for Liu, but when she has sacrificed her life for silence and his anonymity, he can step over her body with unconcern and continue his conquest of Turandot. At the end, instead of a blaze of light, Ponnelle fades the union of Calaf and Turandot into darkness.

Berit Lindholm is Turandot, singing powerfully but steel suggested rather than ice, the tone inclined to sharpen in "In questa reggia" but commendable in her Act III duet with Calaf. She is, on the whole, kinder to Alfano than Puccini. Yoko Watanabe is a touching Liu, dedicated love implied in "Signore, ascolta". On the night I attended,

Humphrey Jennings:  
Film-Maker,  
Painter, Poet

Riverside Centre

Carel Weight R.A.

Royal Academy

It is curious to think that, if Humphrey Jennings were alive today he would be just a year older than Carel Weight. There is really no connexion at all between the two artists, other than the chance that retrospectives devoted to them both have opened in London this last week. And yet the close coincidence of birth-dates (1907 and 1908) does pull one up short. Weight, after all, as one of our busiest R.A.s, so vividly present that it comes as a surprise to work out that he is 73. While Humphrey Jennings, dead for 32 years, has seemed recently in danger of being smothered by his own reputation as a classic of the British documentary film movement. A classic of anything tends to sound rather stuffy and improving, but a classic of documentary.

Especially since in Jennings's case not only is the label thoroughly misleading, in so far as it concerns his film work, but it gives a completely inadequate idea of the range of his interests and talents. The exhibition at the Riverside Centre until February 14 is subtitled *Film-Maker, Painter, Poet*, which is quite possibly putting things in the right order. But painting was an important part of his activity all through his life, held it would seem in almost equal balance with film-making among his own priorities, though it was to outside circumstances sometimes he would be more productive in one area, sometimes the other.

As for "poet", there is a small body of actual poems, but if anyone deserved the title in the inclusive *Observations* — which was at least partly his brain-child — everything hung together, everything was part of the same total oeuvre, related to and touched by his own individual genius.

Nor is genius too strong a word. Few, I think, would deny it to Jennings's finest films such as *Listen to Britain* (1942) and *A Diary for Timothy* (1945): though for convenience's sake they can be classified as documentary — they are, after all, non-fiction — in fact they are examples of that rare breed, the film-poem. They tell us very little on the level of actuality, but they tell us with sometimes almost unbearable poignancy what it felt like to be there. They bring a painter's eye and a poet's sensibility to bear on their raw material, and shape it with all the skills of a master-technician, who needed to be told nothing about the ebb and flow of film images, or the intricate interrelations of sight and sound in creating something which neither could do individually. Possibly his range in film was



Carel Weight's "Allegro Strepitoso" — a certain Betjemannesque whimsicality?

small — there are signs, for instance, in another of his best films *Fires Were Started* (1943), that he was not at home with a larger structure or with handling people as performers; earlier, one can see hints of impatience with the need sometimes to convey mere information — but within his own kind of film he was unique.

These and other of his films are being shown at Riverside as part of the exhibition. It would be easy to slot the rest of the show in as background information, but that would be signally to undervalue it. The paintings and the poems and the notations of Jennings's other activities (very usefully gathered together in permanent form in the book *Humphrey Jennings: Film-Maker, Painter, Poet*, edited by his daughter Mary-Lou Jennings and published by the British Film Institute at £3.75) make up a composite picture of an artist who was more than a film-maker with side-interests. We are reminded, for instance, of Jennings's formation (like that of Charles Madge, friend and co-founder of Mass Observation) in the bosom of the English Surrealist movement. Mass Observation itself was more Jungian than Marxist in its attempts to plumb the collective unconscious, and the organization's passion for literary collage (as in the wonderful book about George VI's Coronation, May 12, edited by Jennings and Madge) is not the only thing which links it with Surrealism.

One has only to look at the early

paintings in the show, not to mention the literal collages, to see how important Surrealism was to Jennings, and it is not for nothing that his magic moment as a film-maker came during the Second World War, when surrealist images escaped from their canvases and stalked the streets for real. Jennings's poems (see *London* read like straight surrealist free-association, until you realize that they are a precise enumeration of real-life images from his films. Some of Jennings's paintings of the Thirties, especially those on the obsessive image of the horse, are very good of their kind — even though the painter is visibly searching for his own personal form of expression. When he came back to painting after the war, he had somehow found it.

The paintings which principally occupied him from 1947 until his accidental death in 1950 (on Greek location for a film) are astonishing on two scores: that they are quite unknown, except for some glimpses in a television film about him, and that they are quite unlike anyone else painting, in Britain or elsewhere at that time. Seldom can I remember receiving so forcefully, walking into a gallery, the impression of encountering a major new talent of complete originality. Which, more than 30 years after the artist's death, is really something. And what a revelation to see Jennings in colour (all his mature films were in black and white), especially since the colours are so dazzling.

All these paintings are representational, yet he has an odd way of abstracting his images of landscapes and (less frequently) of people by fragmenting and refracting them in a way which slightly recalls the Vorticists or early Duchamp — neither exactly a fashionable connexion in the Forties. By this time the Surrealist strain seems to have diminished in importance, and instead we have pure painting, of a discipline and sensuousness which will come as a surprise even to those who know Jennings's films well. Now one can only hope that this renewed attention will stimulate interest in the long-neglected literary and visual collage on the Industrial Revolution, *Pandemonium*, if only to complete the picture of this very extraordinary man.

One thing about Jennings that I have not mentioned — largely because it seems to have little or no relevance to his painting — is his famous, almost mystical feeling for the fabric of England. Now, Carel Weight's painting has that, very strongly, though in its own peculiar way. From early in his career — as the retrospective in the Diploma Galleries of the Royal Academy until February 14 shows us — at least since *Allegro Strepitoso* in 1932, Weight seems to have marked out a certain kind of English suburban angst as his very own. In *Allegro Strepitoso*, which features a portly English lady out walking (rather curiously) with her maid in the zoo, being attacked

by an escaped lion and stalwartly preparing to defend herself with a parasol (the principal figure was modelled by Weight's mother), one might suppose a certain Betjemannesque whimsicality. But in later works the sense of unlocalised misery and terror proves (as it does with Betjeman's later poems) to go deeper.

What frightening lives they lead, these desolate wanderers in Putney or Kensington. Ghosts walk among them, sometimes recognized, sometimes not, but their presence banefully felt. In some of the later paintings, like *Batavisea Medusa*, you wonder if anyone would care, or think her any more than another weird manifestation of punk. But, as a rule, Weight's people know. Sometimes they worry or flee in terror, but on the whole they just stoically continue. There may be a deliberate awkwardness and sophisticated-primitive quality about the way the people are drawn — though occasional portraits (such as those, quite intimidating, of Orrovia Pissarro) show Weight can paint very well in his own version of the grand manner if he wishes. But finally he is more vivid as an urban landscapist than anything else: few painters have had such a precise power to evoke the drab and secretly strange Hamiltonian world of the 20,000 streets and their uncommunicative inhabitants against the apocalyptic splendours of a sunset sky.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

Alan Hacker

Wigmore Hall

The cellist of the Fitzwilliam Quartet was laid low with mumps at the weekend, so the London premiere of David Blake's *Clarinet Quintet*, on Sunday night, had to be postponed. The clarinetist, for whom it was written, Alan Hacker, gallantly gave a solo recital instead, with his wife Karen Evans as pianist. He contrived an intriguing programme that reflected his personal interests, as well as his championship of new music.

One of his colleagues at York University, Neil Sorrell, had transcribed a traditional Japanese hymn, "A Bell Ringing in the Empty Sky". Hacker played it on a clarinet, easily and expressively sustaining its long-held tones which veer to and fro in microtones, each deviation from western chromatic pitch lucid and eloquent.

This was melody without accompaniment, of course, like the "Hymn to the Sun" written down, in the second century AD, by Mesomedes of Crete, one of the few extant examples of pre-Christian music. The programme-sheet announced that Hacker would play it on the Klarino, and I expected something like a trumpet, but it looked similar, one with a slack reed, to give a fat, vibrant tone in the chalumeau register — he played it three times, rising an octave each time.

The programmes' official novelty, William Sweeney's "Nine Days" (its London premiere), made a similar effect. A pibroch melody, accompanied by drones in octaves on violin, clarinet and bass clarinet, is varied with progressively florid virtuosity, always gentle and leisurely. It is not contemporary music, as we understand the term, but written down traditional Scottish, as when an Irish fiddler invents his own jig or reel and commits it to paper — in this case to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike in 1926.

For those of us who had been expecting to hear Brahms's Clarinet Quintet,

with his Hungarian gypsy bravado in the slow movement, Hacker produced Stanford's "Irish Lament", an acceptable local variant (wait until you hear Stanford's Irish Symphony, of which a record is on the way). Hacker played it with the pride and passion to be heard from the finest Irish traditional musicians at national folk festivals.

There was, to be sure, some more conventional recital repertoire in Poulenc's late, masterly and spirited Sonata, and Berg's Four Pieces. To them, and every thing, even a Prescottian canzona arranged for clarinet and piano, in defiance of the Authenticity movement for which Hacker has elsewhere laboured valuably (in the Music Pay, for instance), he had something uncommon, fresh, and very musical to bring. He is, without doubt, our clarinet-player *hors concours*, a musician to be treasured in his midst.

William Mann

Apollo  
Contemporary  
Music/Hellewell

Queen Elizabeth Hall

It was nostalgia time with Apollo Contemporary Music on Sunday. Though billed as bringing us "the latest in new instrumental, vocal, and electro-acoustic works" by leading British avant garde composers, the concert in fact offered two "new" pieces several years old, and was a good decade out of date in terms of its electronic technology, not to speak of its ethos.

Now, of course, it is possible to make new music with old instruments, but when electronic music is concerned the rule has always been that the great successes are brought back from the forefront of technological advance. Something in the medium seems to require a newness which once captured will remain to keep the work alive. Here, on the other hand, we were presented again with the stale flavours of the early small-

scale synthesizer, an apparatus which seemed severely limited as a concert instrument in its day, and which is now quite dead.

Proof of this was given twice over in pieces by David Hellewell, the conductor and guiding spirit of this enterprise, who has to be admired for the continuing pluck with which he promotes his music and the continuing generosity he extends to composers more fortunate. For this occasion he had commissioned works from Edwin Roxburgh and David Bedford, besides performing a charmingly simple-minded composition for synthesizer and instruments, *Ground State*, by his pupil Gordon Downie.

The Roxburgh piece was a little like a concerto written by the composer for himself to play, called *Elegy* and dedicated to the memory of another outstanding oboist, Janet Craxton. I suspect I would have found this work a good deal more powerful without the electronic modulation applied to the soloist, for virtuosity is immediately placed behind a curtain when it is amplified, and an electronic theronoid is a little like a printed letter of condolence.

Bedford's *Vocoder Sextet* also, and for this composer, surprisingly, misfired in its use of electronics. The idea seemed to be that words should be mixed with instrumental sounds so that the text appeared to be spoken by the music, but the instrument that should have made this possible, the vocoder, in fact presented only a clangorous distortion of the narration beneath much minimalist prettiness. Indeed, the only piece to make any positive impression was the only one which had been heard before and was not electronic, Nigel Osborne's *Vienna-Zurich-Constantine*.

Paul Griffiths

Mandeville  
Conteantante

Purcell Room

Two hundred years ago on New Year's Day Johann

Christian Bach, J. S. Bach's younger son, died in London after almost 20 years as the most distinguished figure in English musical life. He died in debt and near oblivion, the London public proving as fickle as was the Viennese to his disciple a decade later. Londoners still forget him. The BBC has plans on his behalf for later this year, but none of the London orchestras is venturing even a performance of one of his noble double symphonies, and it fell to the Mandeville Conteantante to provide a modest commemoration on Sunday.

Modest, and slightly perverse, too, or we heard only one brief instrumental work by J. C. Bach and a couple of songs with accompaniments adapted to the keyboard. These were supplemented by familiar Mozart (it could at least have been pieces showing the elder composer's influence) and music by Stephen Storace — it is pleasant that anyone manages to find Storace space, but any connexion with J. C. Bach is exiguous.

J. C. Bach was a keyboard player and an early advocate of the piano, and it was perhaps ill-advised to play his G major keyboard quartet with a harpsichord rather than the newer instrument, thus blunting the fine expressiveness that this Italian composer was bringing to instrumental music — though in truth it matters little if the music is anyway to be done too fast, as that has a similar effect. In a quintet by Storace a fortepiano was used, more happily.

They also played Mozart's E flat quartet with the fortepiano. Great music needs less urgently the advocacy of original instruments — though a performance I heard in America recently of Schubert's B flat piano trio by the Amadei Trio made me aware that the work we generally hear is distant from and inferior to the one Schubert imagined. Sunday's was an inadequate performance, the upper strings intoned, the piano insufficiently accurate: the kind of thing that gives authenticity a bad, amateurish name.

Stanley Sadie

ON EVERYONE'S  
BEST FILM LIST 1981  
BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR  
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MOVES  
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THURS  
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GATE  
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STIVANZ  
MEPHISTO  
BERNARD BENTON  
THE TRAGEDY  
OF A RICH MAN  
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HANSEL AND GRETEL

# Where Ray Buckton got it wrong

By Clifford Rose, British Rail's chief negotiator



Clifford Rose: It's up to Aslef to deliver

Dear Customer,

When Ray Buckton, General Secretary of Aslef, wrote to you, as he did in an open letter in yesterday's *Times*, about setting the record straight on the current railway dispute, what he did was present you with a selection of the facts in order to put the best possible face on the Aslef ban on voluntary overtime and rest day working and its call for strike action tomorrow and Thursday.

The recommendation by the Railway Staff National Tribunal in July meant that BR was asked to pay staff an extra 11 per cent, and find the 39-hour week

(which had been agreed in the 1980 pay agreement, provided it was introduced in the context of measures designed to reduce the impact on costs). Paragraph 190 of the recommendation, however, said: "Adequate pay and conditions must continue to be dependent on what can be done to maintain and improve productivity". Mr Buckton tells you that BR took the "unprecedented step" of saying they were not "prepared to introduce the pay recommendations". We spoke more plainly than that. We said we did not have the money, and in the present recession, were unable to find it from higher revenues. The only way forward was by

making significant progress with productivity. And so to the arbitration and conciliation service, Aslef. The main plank of the Aslef argument appears to be that the pay and productivity agreements signed at Ascas were entirely separate. Let me quote from the minutes of the Railway Staff National Council meeting at Ascas on August 20, minutes since endorsed by all parties. The understanding on pay states: "The trade unions had already given the Board six firm commitments on productivity with dates by which negotiations must be completed". The representatives indicated that they had decided to

accept the unions' counter-proposal which had been tabled on the understanding that the commitments on productivity would be honoured. Since August, a great deal of progress has been made on the six commitments to productivity and the majority of railway staff have accepted flexible rostering. But Aslef have refused to budge from the rigid eight-hour day. Flexible rostering aims at employing staff more productively and is a means of introducing the 39-hour week at minimal cost. The benefits to staff include more rest days and less 'turns' starting and finishing during the

"unsocial" hours, particularly between midnight and 5 am. For drivers, this requires the present guaranteed eight-hour day to be replaced by a guaranteed rostered day varying between seven and nine hours, and averaging 39 hours a week over an eight-week cycle. If Aslef signed an agreement on productivity last August on which they had no intention of delivering, it is Aslef who have dishonoured the settlement and no smoke-screen of self-righteousness can hide this fact. Mr Buckton tells you that Aslef is willing to "enter into constructive talks at any time to end the dispute". What does he mean by "constructive"? If he means that he will accept the commitment promised in August, we can resolve the issue quickly. If the Board's firm stand means strikes are unavoidable, then we apologise to our customers for the hardship and inconvenience the strikes will cause; but the long-term interests of the industry, its customers and its staff will be served best by a more efficient railway. The vast majority of railwaymen are delivering on productivity, not just talking about it. The Board's stand is clear and justifiable. We will deliver when Aslef deliver.

Yours sincerely, Clifford Rose.

## Time to suspend our disbelief?

A new word is being hatched into the vast flock of the English lexicon. The word is *disbenefit*. There have been several sightings of it in *Officialdom* dealing with social security matters, but none so clear as to make plain exactly what it means. It must, I guess, mean more than a simple disadvantage like having one's house in the middle of the proposed Standed Airport, which would at present be the worrying opposite of a benefit.

Perhaps it means something intended to be a benefit which in practice is not; for example, the aggressive reduction in bus and Underground fares for somebody living in a highly rated London Borough who never travels by public transport. It might have something to do with the poverty trap, by which something intended to make one better off in fact has the opposite effect. It is probably related to a dis-economy, which, in the jargon of economics, means the opposite of an economy, specifically an increase in costs arising when a business organization exceeds an "optimum size". When a firm, or a school, or some other organization expands above a certain point, administrative costs, a lengthening of the management hierarchy, and the growth of bureaucracy and baffle produce dis-economies in increased costs per unit of output or child educated.

Economists are clodhoppers of language, and their jargon the mudiest. The last one to use English lucidly was John Stuart Mill.

What are we to make of *disbenefit*? As long ago as 1935 A. P. Herbert was campaigning against the notion that one can take a good word, and put *dis-* before it, and come up with an equally good word. His *APHorism* was that nobody would think of saying non-sober when he meant drunk. He would be vexed to learn that any number of social scientists today not only think of it but say non-sober as a more impressive or less wounding way of saying drunk.

APH particularly disliked disequilibrium, usually financial disequilibrium in the City pages of *The Times*. He argued that equilibrium was an exact word, an absolute word like "absolute" or "unique". To add *dis-* to it did not make another exact word, but a vague and feeble word. He liked disequilibrium as little as he would have liked disabolistically for *no* cure, or *dis*injure for *no* cure.

Well, APH lost that one too. Those monstrous jargons the economists found a precise use for disequilibrium and dis-economy, which they say have meanings that cannot be expressed any other way without intolerable circumlocution as if intolerable circumlocution were the element in which they live. It is their technical jargon, and we must leave them to get on with it. The rest of us can allow ourselves a bitter smile as it becomes increasingly evident that even if they understand their own jargon, in the real world they do not know their arses from their elbows.

Dis-economy, as threatened to Labour MPs, is another new non-word; APH called them jungle words. It sounds to me like a euphemism for the brutal truth of "sack", "get rid of", "dismiss". It is just as well that the fanatics and barbarians have not yet thought of a desecrating or even defiling solution for their moderate comrades.

## Unite or die: the Alliance choice

By Dick Taverne

The Social Democrats and the Liberals will, undoubtedly, eventually agree over the sharing-out of the extra seats. But the friction which has been generated is a symptom of a serious weakness in the Alliance: the failure of all but a few — David Steel and Roy Jenkins being honourable exceptions — to look far enough ahead and see our future in perspective.

First we must realize that in the longer term there is no room for separate Liberal and Social Democratic parties. Under our present electoral system their separate survival is inconceivable. The odds against a third party are formidable; against a fourth they would be insurmountable. Even under proportional representation there would be room for four parties. If PR is introduced, we shall almost certainly adopt either the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies, as in Ireland, or a variant of it, as in West Germany. Both systems have allowed only three main parties to become established.

In Britain, the three parties would inevitably be Labour, Conservative and a party of the radical centre. Neither Labour nor Conservatives will disappear. Even if support for Labour declines further, as seems possible, the party is still likely to retain a basic 15 to 20 per cent of the vote, rather like the Communist Party in France. It would remain a substantial force in British politics.

As for the Conservative Party, history suggests it is a durable and adaptable institution. I would expect it to regain ground before the next election, but even if it does not, there is every reason to expect the party to recover from its rather uncharacteristic lapse into ideology. It follows that unless the SDP swallows the Liberals, or vice versa (neither of which will happen), the two can prosper only if they become one party or remain permanently allied by such close ties that they are one party in all but name.

forces can create; we support the EEC and Nato; we are internationalist. We want to move away from the excessive centralism of our institutions; we both support industrial democracy and proportional representation. There are certain to be differences between Liberals and Social Democrats on particular proposals for achieving these principal aims; but they are as likely to exist within each party as between them. The differences if any will be less fundamental than between Conservative "wets" and Thatcherites and certainly than those between Mr Healey and Mr Benn.

The obstacles to merger or permanent union are not therefore ideological, but historical and psychological. The Liberals have a history of recent success in local politics and community involvement and a long record of failure to achieve parliamentary power. The



Dick Taverne: don't misjudge the public mood

selfless dedication of hundreds of parliamentary candidates, who have fought with no hope of ever reaching Westminster and to whom standing in Parliament has almost seemed an end in itself, commands admiration and respect, but it has created a different attitude and approach from that of, say the ex-Labour MPs on the various SDP committees who have actually experienced power. Many people joined the Social Democrats rather than the Liberals because of this greater experience.

These differences in background and approach can perhaps in time complement each other and prove a source of strength. More serious is the rivalry and

conflict between some of the more partisan enthusiasts in both parties. I am full of admiration for those who give nearly all their time to party work. I am worried, however, that some of them seem to feel the need to support the SDP (or the Liberal Party) like a football team. After all, as little as two and a half years ago, when the inevitability of Labour's shift to the left was plain for all to see, some of our cheerleaders were backing a different side, apparently with equal fervour.

I do not believe that SDP members (nor ordinary Liberal Party members) want to see the parties become rivals. People joined the SDP to escape from the black-and-white over-simplifications of adversarial politics. There is no point in claiming that one group is stronger or purer, than the other. The success of the Alliance as a whole is more important than the relative success of its two constituent parties and, the closer the ties within it, the more obvious this will become to all concerned.

There is, however, a danger that separate development of the two parties will draw them apart. It is right and inevitable that a separate social democratic party should be set up, which meant devising a separate organization, constitution and policy groups. Events have shown that this has attracted a formidable body of new recruits to the radical centre and has immeasurably increased the prospect of transforming British politics. There comes a point, however, when separate development can be pushed so hard that obstacles are created to the final goal of a permanent change in the system, when the short-term aims conflict with the needs of long-term strategy.

What is most important of all is that we should fight the next election as an Alliance, with one leader, with one programme, with joint press conferences, joint party broadcasts and joint strategic command. If we see each other as temporary allies, linked only by an electoral pact of convenience, we misjudge the mood of the public and the opportunities for the future.

We must recognize that the Alliance must be permanent and this recognition should influence all our actions from today. The problems we face are too big to allow us to play the old party games.

The author was a Labour MP from 1962 to 1972 and is now a member of the national steering committee of the SDP.

making significant progress with productivity. And so to the arbitration and conciliation service, Aslef. The main plank of the Aslef argument appears to be that the pay and productivity agreements signed at Ascas were entirely separate. Let me quote from the minutes of the Railway Staff National Council meeting at Ascas on August 20, minutes since endorsed by all parties. The understanding on pay states: "The trade unions had already given the Board six firm commitments on productivity with dates by which negotiations must be completed". The representatives indicated that they had decided to

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error caused by a smudge on a photograph. It is elaborate, labour-intensive and rigidly limits the amount of information available about how a phone line is being used. It is a fine example, says British Telecom, of the Government for permission to borrow and spend more money, of a delayed-action penalty being paid for bad decisions made long ago.

Eventually, the whole system will be transformed by advanced "System X" exchanges which will automate phone bills and many other things. But this equipment, operating so far at only two places, will take two decades to install. BT have recently begun to wonder if it might not be a good idea to do something else in the meantime.

Sir George Jefferson, BT's chairman for the past 15 months, has found "a number of things" which have caused him to raise his eyebrows or to hear people outside asking: "Why haven't you done things like the North Americans?" He cites as an example the newest generation of exchanges which was being chosen in the early 1970s. Public-expen-

ture restrictions meant that the Post Office passed up the offer of an automatic billing system. In a year's time, British Telecom intends to start an experiment on several exchanges in Bristol with the equipment which will tell phone users the destination and individual cost of each phone call they make outside their local area. The meters which are so painstakingly photographed cannot provide this. A system which allowed a range of choice about what rate to charge a customer allows a telephone service to take promotional opportunities: new residential customers could be offered their first 100 calls at a cut rate, or even free, on an exchange which was under-used.

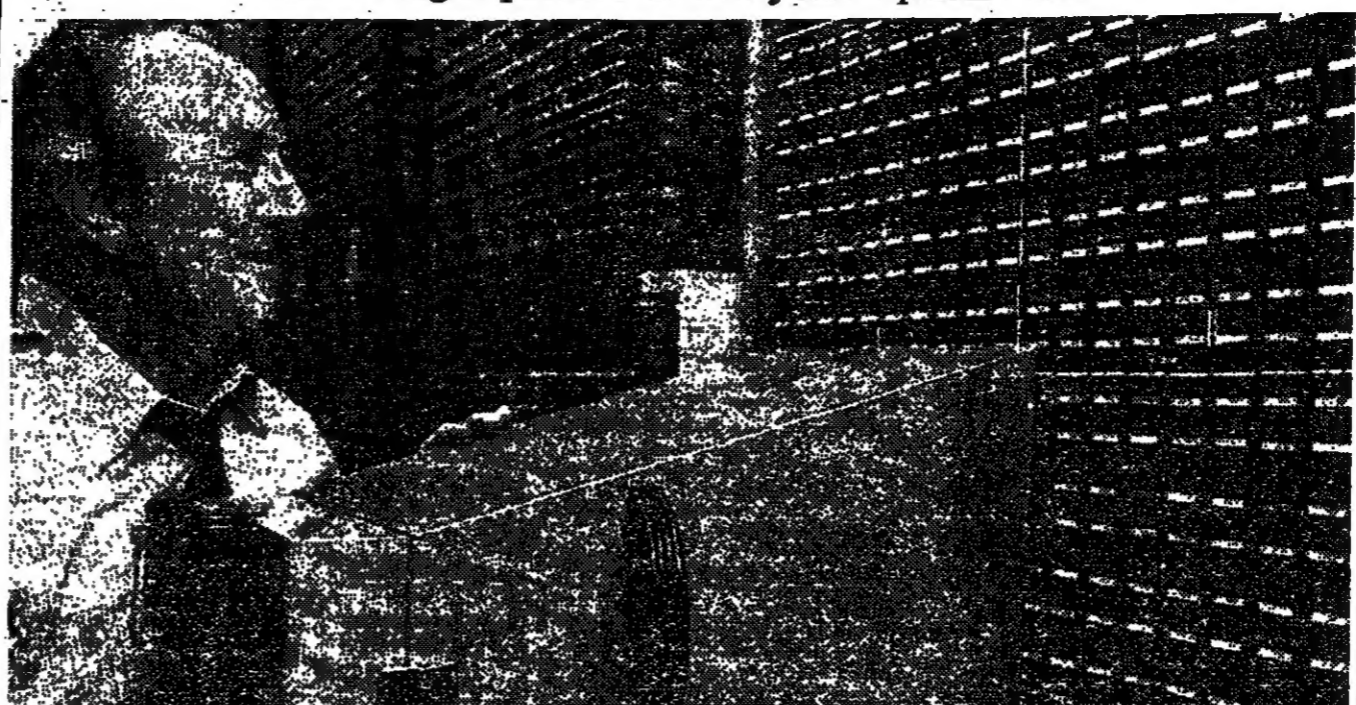
This is of course not the only advantage: computerization, which is eminently suited to telephone billing, and for which appropriate technology has been available for 15 years, will mean fewer workers. BT planners are coy about holding this saving up to too much light for fear of the industrial relations consequences. The Bristol experiment is partly aimed at finding out whether customers are more or less

querulous about their bills when they get more information about their calls. If they do turn out to be more querulous, more staff will be needed to handle complaints. Whatever the potential savings, BT planners clearly do not expect the customers to pay the cost of investing in new machinery, which will be huge. Their calculations suggest that it could not be done for less than £30 a line and it would not cost more than £50. That comes out at a cost of between £540m and £900m, if the improved equipment is to be fitted to all of the 18 million lines in the country.

BT is already one of the country's biggest spenders at a rate of £230,000 every hour of every day. It plans to spend £2,000m a year for the next five years. Sir George Jefferson says that he is now more optimistic than he has been recently about the chances of persuading the Treasury to allow BT to raise investment money — which is more than likely to be forthcoming — beyond restricted Government loans. But his chances of pleasing the man with the loud-bailer can only be slim.

Mr Michael Corby, director of the Telecommunications Users Association, which has been lobbying hard for "tempered" phone bills on behalf of its business members, points out that BT is caught in a paradox: "When it had the money to do this, it didn't need to because phone bills were not so high or increasing so sharply — there wasn't the pressure from customers. Now that BT does need to do it, it does not have the money."

Presenting a picture of everyone's phone bill



Snap decision at the exchange: a British Telecom employee photographs telephone meters

## Count now, pay later

inside a high room filled by a constant clicking sound, a man fits a device looking like a square loudspeaker to a wall of numbers arranged in rows of five or six. Looking like car mileometers, the numbers occasionally click around. Covering 100 at a time, the man systematically works through them, pulling a trigger each time his machine is in place.

This bizarre procedure is the first stage in the process which brings you your telephone bill. The rest of the work is done by the men and their loud-bailers: they are photographing the meters which clock up your telephone calls.

The films are developed as black-and-white transparencies, cut into 6in strips, put into reading machines and the numbers typed into the British Telecom computer. They are typed in twice, by different people, so that the computer spits out discrepancies. Meters are still photographed in all but two of the country's 6,000 telephone exchanges. From the start of photographing to the dispatch of a bill usually takes about a week.

It is a reasonably, but not wholly, accurate process. Very heavy telephone users have occasionally used up all the numbers available on a dial and "cycled" it around zero without anyone noticing. National Utility Services, a Croydon-based company which offers a bill-monitoring service to companies, once came across a £3,000

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What the camera saw

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George Brock

Philip Howard

## An unlikely double act: Penguin and the RSC

A remarkable deal between the Royal Shakespeare Company and Penguin Books, now nearing completion, promises to revolutionize the marketing of the theatre and publishing industries. The RSC, in return for lending its name to endorse the new Penguin Shakespeare series, will receive a small royalty on each text sold — all of which will also include an invitation to join the RSC's mailing list. Moreover, Penguin will be given the first option to publish the texts of other plays performed by the RSC and in return is discussing the possibility of selling tickets in its bookshops.

The springboard for this unprecedented arrangement between two industries suffering a common difficulty — a declining public — was the 1980 publication of the Penguin *Hamlet*, which has an introduction by the Shakespeare scholar Anne Barton, who often writes programme notes for RSC productions. Her husband is none other than John Barton, RSC associate director who used the Penguin edition as director of the RSC's Stratford production the same year. This cosy arrangement was spotted by executives of both sides who realized that each might be able to assist the other on a more formal basis.

The first fruit of the new friendship also marks the RSC's London premiere of Arthur

Schnitzler's celebrated play *La Ronde* at the Aldwych Theatre. Penguin is publishing the first English translation of the play and the text has been prepared for it by John Barton.

## Royals beware

The article in *The Times* on Saturday showing that the eighties in each century tend to be much colder than other decades prompted me to see whether any other hidden rhythms could be discerned from the history books. It turns out that they can, and they lead to these predictions:

● It will be a rough decade for royalty. In 1087 the very fat William the Conqueror was thrown on the pommel of his saddle, which fatally burst open his bowels; 1189: Britain's bloodiest coronation took place when a Jewish money-lender tried to enter Westminster Abbey with a gift for Richard the Lionheart; he was beaten and many Jews were killed outside while the ceremony took place inside; 1382: the Queen of Naples was suffocated after she had changed her will (she is largely remembered for her decree that no man may force his wife to have sexual intercourse more than six times a day); 1485: Richard III was slaughtered at Bosworth Field; 1587: Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded; 1684: the Oxford English Dictionary first appeared; 1886: Coca-Cola was first brewed as a tonic for headache and hangovers; 1889: the first jukebox was installed, in San Francisco, though it was then called a "juke-nec, who invented the stethoscope, was born; 1785: Benjamin Franklin invented bi-focals so he could see both his dinner and the person he was talking to; 1785: the first jukebox was installed, in San Francisco, though it was then called a "juke-

## THE TIMES DIARY

Geoffrey Burdon, composer of the haunting Greek Ditties which graced Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy and the wistful theme music which crowned the movie *recent* *Brideshead Revisited*, has declined a generous Hollywood offer to write the music for award-winning John Carpenter's remake of *The Thing*, a 1950s horror film. An atheist and a remarkable feat for "church" music, Burdon tells me that time prevents his crossing the Atlantic; he is busy writing two operas and planning to travel to New Zealand to help organize a workshop for composers and choreographers sponsored by the Gulbenkian Foundation. But I understand that Burdon

would have found time for the project if he had been more impressed with the script. "I told the producer I was too busy," the diplomatic Burdon, 40, told me yesterday from his modest Victorian terraced house in St John's Wood. He is writing a one-act church opera, based on the Orpheus myth, as part of the 900th anniversary celebrations at Wells Cathedral in July, and has completed two-thirds of a three-act opera *Mirandola* based on the life of a sixteenth-century composer. While searching for a chance to stage it, Burdon is meanwhile keeping a close watch on the hit parade. If his single from *Brideshead Revisited* reaches the top 30, it will probably be covered by Legs and Co on Top of the Pops.

## Social triumphs

Three more practical uses of the social sciences, today from David Hendry, Professor of Economics at Nuffield College. After prefacing his choice by saying: "It is the fate of major practical achievements in the social sciences to become so much a part of everyday life that they seem natural facets of the environment, or 'common sense', rather than the creations of social science research," he goes on: (a) The cost-benefit study of the Victoria line which demonstrated its feasibility in terms of social and economic, in contradistinction to financial, criteria;

(b) The use of peak-load pricing by such bodies as British Telecom (and earlier by the CEBG); (c) Income-expenditure macro-economics (created by Lord Keynes and Kahn) which for two decades helped keep unemployment at historically unachieved low levels (and indeed predicted how the present government's monetarist policies would lead to high unemployment).

Tomorrow some achievements in the field of education where the consensus among different scholars seems to be greater than in, say, economics.

## Soho blow-out

Plans for a gastronomic festival are under consideration by the pornography-besieged restaurateurs of Soho. If, like the wares of their more exotic neighbours, they come off, the festivities will mark several months of solid achievement by the 30-odd members of the Soho Restaurateurs Association. Under the guidance of chairman Peter Boicot (Ketners and Plaza Express), who founded it last summer, the association aims to remind Soho patrons that the area is also noted for its cuisine. As a first step in that direction, it has just persuaded National Car Parks to keep its St Anne's Court, Dean Street park open until 2am and launched a voucher scheme which offers clients free parking in a bid to entice them in.

Steps have also been taken to persuade the local authority to improve refuse collection, and install new public toilets in the area. A meeting with Ken

Livingstone, leader of the GLC, will be held next month when members, who include Nick Lander of L'Escargot, Nigel Tarr of Epicure, Victor Sassi of The Gay Hussar, and Joseph Berkman of Jardin des Deux Mers, will ask what support they can expect from him.

## Habiteach

A mug of soup and a ploughman's lunch individually wrapped in a rustic red market-bag yesterday at the opening of a rather unusual exhibition devoted to the origins of modern industrial design.

Early Olivetti typewriters, Gestetner copiers and a rather stylish Mobil petrol pump (circa 1964) were just some of the items on display in Terence Conran's new industrial design centre at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Conran Foundation, a new independent educational charity, has just converted the space in the V and A's old boilerhouse into a display area, the plan is to stage a series of exhibitions on aspects of design. Later there will be research facilities for professional designers. Conran, slightly preoccupied yesterday with the imminent Mothercare-Habitat merger, told me he hoped the centre would offer young industrial designers a source. Stephen Bayley, director of the foundation, has no need of that: he was dressed in a white jacket, red bow tie and stylish pink-rimmed glasses.

Peter Watson

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ENERGY FOR PROSPERITY

As we enter 1982 everyone is scanning its horizon for signs of an end to the world slump. There are a few rays emanating from behind dark clouds, and one of them offers a crucial opportunity. It lies in the price of oil. At first sight it might seem this is a matter the nations of the West can happily ignore this year. The Opec nations under Saudi Arabia's leadership, have announced that there will be no increase in the money price which they charge for their oil this year. A combination of inflation and the likely weakness of the dollar probably means that the industrial nations will pay less for their oil in real terms in 1982 than they did in 1981.

This is not saying much, and that needs to be said at this point with some vehemence. All too easily the west could lure itself again into believing that "market forces" are at last asserting themselves against the Opec cartel. This was the confident assertion in 1973 when the first oil price explosion occurred, producing a massive world deflation of demand and a massive inflation of cost. It was an illusion that should not have survived the oil shock of 1978. Stagflation had been heard of before 1973-8, but it was no more than a seed by comparison with the rampaging brontosaurus of a slump an inflation we have endured for nearly a decade. The Arabs may have heard of Adam Smith but they have operated the harsher laws of oligopoly. The world economy is clearly trapped in a vicious interaction between oil producers and industrial countries. Oil price rises cause recession, which generates more demand for the oil market. After a few years the industrial nations start to recover again. When they do, the oil producers use the increased demand to recover all the loss of income which they experienced during the recession and more besides. Their vast payments surpluses slosh around the

Poland's effect on detente

From Mr Brian Crozier  
Sir, There is a built-in absurdity in the idea of your second leader in the Times of January 7, "How best to save detente". How do you save something that has never existed, or which, if it has, has long since ceased to have any meaning on the Soviet side?

You say that "many erroneous ideas about detente still circulate" in Washington. What has happened in Washington is that the illusions about detente that were officially fostered during the Carter period (at least until the invasion of Afghanistan caused the President to ponder) have been discarded in favour of a more realistic approach to East-West relations.

You also say that it "remains possible" the General Jaruzelski is a patriot trying to save his country from a worse fate. This seems a highly improbable interpretation of the General's career. For five years, until 1965, he was the head of the Central Political Department of the Polish United Workers' Party. Later, he was admitted to the Central Committee and finally to the ruling Politbureau. He is, in other words, the prototype political commissar.

In his press conference of December 23 President Reagan stated that the proclamation of martial law in Poland was not only drafted but actually printed in Moscow. I do not believe that the President of the United States would make such a statement unless he had evidence to support it. The truth is that the Soviets have refrained from invading Poland because they are afraid of Western reaction, including sanctions against transfers of high technology.

By forcing the Polish armed forces to do the dirty work of repression, they hope to avoid any worse reaction than they would elicit in other words, to stimulate the views now being expressed by Dr Genscher and by Theo Sommer (which you praised). Do not forget that the Polish Army is an integral part of the Warsaw Pact forces, commanded in Western Europe by the Soviet Marshal Kulikov.

During the Carter period, the view was often expressed in Western Europe that America was failing to provide leadership. Now that firm leadership is provided, the West Europeans seem too timid to take the necessary firm measures and to back the United States. The fiction that the Poles are settling their own affairs among themselves provides them with a contemptible excuse for inaction.

Yours very truly,  
BRIAN CROZIER,  
318-320 Grand Buildings,  
Trafalgar Square, WC2.

Practical use of social sciences

From Professor Julius Gould  
Sir, The Social Science Research Council has recently reorganised itself with the much debated aim of increasing its "usefulness". Within months it has been rewarded with a budget cut of over £1m. Moreover, at Sir Keith Joseph's request, its activities are now to be intensively reviewed by Lord Rothschild.

As someone who has ever since its inception been somewhat sceptical about the role and influence of the SSRC, I begin, almost but not quite, to feel sorry for the council. Perhaps its miseries will, after Lord Rothschild has reported, be relieved by its extinction.

But whatever the outcome, the need for thought and inquiry in the social sciences will not disappear. Despite the existence of the SSRC and the concomitant proliferation within our universities of so many social science departments (and by "social science" I do not mean, solely or primarily, "sociology") it would be wrong to believe that the social sciences have been afforded a luxurious research base. In the present period of contraction that base may well be subject to excessive erosion, unless a "restructured" university system makes possible a firm base for fundamental social inquiry, recognising that no government should be expected to put such inquiry at the top of its priorities.

Against this difficult background it is hard to feel much assisted by the remark attributed in today's Times (January 8) to a professor of sociology at Aberdeen University: "The facts are themselves left wing, and this is what Tory politicians don't like".

I myself have no such assurances about what "Tory politicians" do, or do not like in the way of social "facts". But the assertion that "the facts are themselves left wing" is clearly absurd. Even if this were true of all or most present "facts", the character of "facts" as yet undiscovered, "facts" cannot be so confidently predicted.

Sir Keith Joseph and Lord Rothschild will, one assumes, approach the matter with greater circumspection. They will know, as most of us do, that the findings of social science inquiry (including economics) neither can nor should be so polemically described or anticipated.

Yours sincerely,  
JULIUS GOULD,  
381 Derby Road,  
Nottingham.

From Professor D. G. MacRae  
Sir, In most despotisms, ancient or modern, the messenger who brings bad news has been a victim of punishment even to death. This has been as true of the

Churches and covenanting

From the Right Reverend K. J. Woolcombe  
Sir, The Churches' Council for Covenanting gave careful consideration to Bishop Alan Clark's letter (January 4) during its first session in 1982. Members were not slow to express their gratitude for the encouraging and gracious conclusion of the letter, but they were perplexed by their inability to understand what the bishop has written about "selective ordination" and "ordination by proxy". These terms do not appear in our proposals and we fear that they may give rise to misunderstanding.

In the Making of the Covenant participants from all the churches offer themselves, members and ministers (individually) and their ministries and offices (representatively) to be renewed and united by God's Holy Spirit to the enrichment of all. That He may give to each whatever spiritual gifts are needed for the wider service authorised therewith.

The National Service of reconciliation and proceeds to the ordination of new bishops for all the churches. Then follow prayers for the ministers to be reconciled and incorporated in a new relationship within the historic ministry of the catholic Church, as ordained to the ministry are ordained to the presbyterate by the use of a rite which will become the churches' common ordination and will be used at subsequent ordinations.

The service concludes with the reaffirmation of baptismal promises to enable all present, representative of the whole people of God, to make the Covenant their own, before they celebrate the Lord's Supper together for the first time. Regional and local services follow the national service and include the same elements to enable all ministers and representatives of all congregations to make their personal response to the Covenant.

What we are proposing to our churches does not involve the ordination of anyone who has already been ordained. It does not involve the ordination of those who have not been ordained and ensures that all future ordinations shall be corporate acts of the churches.

The council has always recognised the reservations which prevent the Roman Catholic Church from taking part in the Covenant. But we have been encouraged by the continuing participation of its consultant observers not to think that it has reservations about other churches covenanting together.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH WOOLCOMBE,  
Churches' Council for Covenanting,  
Church House,  
Dean's Yard,  
Westminster, SW1.  
January 7.

AN OPTICAL MONOPOLY

It is a truth universally acknowledged that spectacles supplied under private practice often cost far more than they are worth. The Price Commission said so witheringly in one of its last utterances in 1979, Lord Rugeley says so, and has introduced a private member's Bill intended to get matters right, and even the optical practitioners' association says so, justifying the fact with reference to the unrealistically low prices the state pays them for spectacles dispensed on the national health. It is true that NHS rates are too low to provide a reasonable return on the work; optical services rank alongside dentistry as a standing warning to those medical practitioners who persistently urge the advantages of fee for item of service as a basis for remuneration in the health service.

In dentistry the existing system works blindly but systematically to discourage good practice, innovation and prevention. But in optical services it is arguable that the system, which requires professional examination before glasses are prescribed, works to provide cover against eye diseases that might otherwise go undetected until they are difficult to treat. If the minority who want fancy frames as sold privately are made inadvertently to subsidise the majority who settle for plain NHS frames, perhaps there is nothing unduly unfair about that. However, optical practitioners would appear more convincing in the role of Robin Hood if they had not so plainly been making a good thing out of it. Until recently, professional regulations made it difficult for the public to compare prices and seek out the best bargain. Although there has been some relaxation recently it is still possible to doubt whether there is not too strong a temptation on practitioners to press dubious customers into buying private glasses instead of NHS ones.

Since the professionals have a statutory monopoly on the sale of optical appliances, the public cannot turn elsewhere — unless, as the Minister for Consumer Affairs a little unfeelingly recommended recently, they go to buy their spectacles abroad. Britain is exceptional in imposing a monopoly of this kind, and Parliament imposed it only as recently as 1958, in the Act which created the General Optical Council on the model of the General Medical Council. Before that date, reading glasses had been sold over the counter as freely as sunglasses are today, and customers had simply tried them on like shoes till they found a pair that suited them. Cheap

In the cold

From the Director of the British Foundation for Age Research  
Sir, Whilst sub-zero temperatures are a nuisance, the cold is still with us, may I draw your readers' attention to a timely and socially responsible donation from an international oil company which has enabled a privately financed research project on hypothermia to take place at the School of Medicine of London University College.

The effect of cold on the control of body temperature and the cardiovascular responses in the elderly will be studied so the elderly will be better understood, but the many illnesses it triggers be reduced, to the relief of the elderly and those responsible for their care.

May we hope that this example will act as a spur to help the elderly and, through research, achieve healthier and therefore happier lives for them?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ALLFREY,  
British Foundation for Age Research,  
49 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

In the mind to suffer

From the Secretary-General, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults  
Sir, I fully support Peggy Jay's statement (January 6) to resolve the "residual confusion in the public mind between the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped", and I am grateful for her kind comments about MENCAP's public impact. However, it seems to me that if her faith in your readers is rewarded and a new generic term for mentally ill people is coined, this will only scratch the surface of the problem.

The fact is that people who suffer from any mental disadvantage (whether it be a handicap from birth or a developing illness) are generally thought of in this country as "lunatics", "monies" or even worse. Until young people are adequately educated about the true facts concerning the mentally disadvantaged, and are reminded of the sobering fact that "there but for the grace of God go I", mentally handicapped and mentally ill people alike will continue to be treated with ridicule and derision.

No amount of terminological tinkering will change that. Pejorative words arise, willy-nilly, through constant misuse.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN RIX, Secretary-General,  
The Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults,  
MENCAP National Centre,  
123 Golden Lane, EC1.  
January 7.

Sanctity of life

From Professor P. A. Jewell  
Sir, Your correspondents, the Reverend David Campbell and other members of the Church of England (January 5), refer to the sanctity of human life but they fail completely to take account of the intrusion of modern medical technology into matters of life and death. They refer only to the immortality of terminating life and say nothing about the immortality of imposing life, by artificial means, where by a natural course of events death would have supervened. Moreover, confusion is created by the assumption that adults and newborn, doctors, parents and the state, can all be constrained by the same set of principles.

Most people would agree with the moral principles that are outlined where they are applicable to adults. The issues are acute where the birth of a child suffering from a severe defect poses the problem. The treatment applied may not be normal but can be "supernormal" thereby enforcing the survival of a desperately crippled infant. The application of modern electronic techniques, drawing on space technology, coupled with new physiological knowledge, could in time keep almost any foetus alive however deformed it might be. To accomplish this may be seen as a challenge to medical technology actually sanctioned by the stated moral principles.

Parents do have more right than others when they face such problems and should be able to turn to doctors for supportive advice. Their guide should be a compassionate code, formulated with humility and care, and not rigid principles pontificated by the church or enshrined in laws issued by the state.

Yours sincerely,  
P. A. JEWELL,  
Mary Marshall and Arthur Walton Professor of Physiology of Reproduction,  
Physiological Laboratory,  
Cambridge,  
January 6.

Alliance partnership

From Mr Alastair J. Brett  
Sir, William Wallace's article, "Stop the squabbling and get down to a real alliance" (January 4) raises a number of interesting points about the share-out of seats between Social Democrats and Liberals.

Everyone must realise that the Alliance is a partnership of equals supported by the twin pillars of both parties. If one side pulls out the edifice comes tumbling down, the vote is split, and the old two-party system rides merrily on. I might add that two parties who espouse proportional representation must also accept the logical consequence of proportional representation; that is coalition government, which inevitably means compromise, open-mindedness and a degree of humility rarely found in politicians.

But if the Alliance is a partnership of equals, surely it is only fair to give the Liberals 27 good seats if the 27 Social Democratic MPs are being given a safe run in their own constituencies. This would allow the Liberal MPs to fight their old seats and the 15 next best Liberal candidates to contest seats they only just failed to gain in 1979.

Moreover seats like Croydon, North-West, a former marginal, can now be won by Alliance candidates attracting votes from

Queensgate Centre

From Mr Wyndham Thomas  
Sir, Your Architecture Correspondent purports to write (January 6) about Queensgate, the regional shopping centre we are building in Peterborough's city centre. It will be finished in March, so its form cannot

Living together

From Mr J. A. Forster  
Sir, Did any of your readers, like me, sense a feeling of shock when they read a review of the report on Living Together by Clare Dyer and Marcel Berlins (January 7)?

Did none of the interviewees speak of the sanctity of Christian marriage and the purposes for which it is ordained? Did none talk of integrity between the cohabitants? They certainly spoke of what was convenient and financially advantageous.

Could I suggest that here we have a lack of personal respect and personal integrity which is at the centre of Britain's problems today?

Yours faithfully,  
J. FORSTER,  
The Orchard,  
Chapel Lane,  
Willeslow, Cheshire.

From Mr F. H. Smith

Sir, The current weather has served, once again, to highlight the efficiency and indomitable spirit of the British paper boy. My place of work is some four miles from the newsagent, yet today (January 8) our large batch of papers arrived only a few minutes late as, presumably, did those at the other houses on his "round", all of which have long drives covered with inches of virgin snow.

It is difficult enough (I did not even try it) to ride a cycle in such circumstances, but with a large sack of heavy papers the task must be Herculean.

Yours faithfully,  
F. H. SMITH,  
6 Egley Drive,  
Mayford, Woking.

Nijinsky material

From Mr Cyril FitzLeon  
Sir, Mr John Heilpern (The Times January 2) is mistaken in thinking that "there are no crucial differences between [Nijinsky's] original notebooks and Romola [Nijinsky's] published version, save for the scatological sections". If my unexpurgated translation of the notebooks is ever published he will see that they contain a great deal of new material and contradict the published version on a number of fairly important points. They certainly do not warrant the assertion that "Nijinsky had little interest in sex".

Much has been made by psychiatrists and others (though not by Mr Heilpern in his article) of Nijinsky's self-identification with God in his signature at the end of the published version: "God Nijinsky". In fact, however, the signature reads: "God and Nijinsky" — a very different matter.

Adler's analysis

Adler's analysis as summarised by Mr Heilpern may well be correct, but it rests on some dubious assumptions. He insists particularly on the effect produced on Nijinsky by being placed "in the aristocratic Imperial Ballet School at St Petersburg", where he felt slighted by pupils of "better schooling and background". Sir, Nijinsky was being poor and was handicapped by his Polish accent.

Surely none of this is true. There was nothing aristocratic about the ballet school, where most pupils came from poor families with a similar background to Nijinsky, some more modest, some less so, many of them Polish (eg Kucharska). Nijinsky's Russian was better than his Polish. He found Polish difficult to understand — at least, so he says in his notebooks.

Yours etc,  
K. FITZLYON,  
2 Arlington Cottages,  
Sutton Lane, W4.

Proper names

From the Chairman of The Orion Insurance Company, Limited  
Sir, The honours system is well known for its power to baffle those who issue advertising circulars. Fifty years ago my headmaster was one of the first to receive simultaneously from a firm one envelope addressed to Dr Cyril Norwood and the other to D. Litt. Esq.

Ernestine Carter, the notable journalist, tells me that she still cherishes an American paper which addressed her as "Mrs Ernestine Obe".

Now the word processor has begun to make its mark in this sphere. A world-famous motor company, after revving up with an envelope addressed to "Sir A Part Gcb, Orion Ins Co Ltd" has gone into top gear at the beginning of the letter itself with "Dear Mr Gcb".

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY PART,  
The Orion Insurance Company Limited,  
70 King William Street, EC4.

Not cricket?

From Colonel F. M. Hill  
Sir, "China will open its first golf course in 1983" (page 3 of today's issue, December 31).

I well remember as a boy in Tientsin, before World War One, my parents playing golf on the course there.

Owing to the indiscriminate choice of burial places by the Chinese for their ancestors there was a local rule that "Balls falling in an open grave may be picked out without penalty".

I am, Sir, etc,  
F. M. HILL,  
The Old Pub,  
Monkton Deverill,  
Warminster,  
Wiltshire.



## £115m wiped off Royal Bank shares

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Nearly £115m was wiped off the value of The Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday after reports that the Monopolies Commission has recommended against both takeover bids for the group from Standard Chartered and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. The Royal Bank's shares tumbled from 193p to 135p at one stage, finally closing at 142p. The bank's shares were sold in the market late on Friday.

The Government will discuss the Monopolies Commission's recommendations this week and publication of the Commission's report is expected soon, although it was not originally planned for this week. On Thursday, Royal Bank directors are likely to be closely questioned by shareholders at the annual meeting in Edinburgh.

The Monopolies Commission's report has been circulated in Whitehall by Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, with the Foreign Office, Scottish Office, Treasury and Bank of England also receiving copies.

The bids for the Royal Bank have caused controversy in Whitehall with the Department of Trade and Foreign Office both concerned that the blocking of Hongkong and Shanghai's bid should impair trading relations with Hongkong and the Far East.

The Bank of England nailed its colours firmly to a merger between Standard Chartered and the Royal Bank, and Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor, has made no secret of his fierce opposition to the Hongkong and Shanghai bid.

The Department of Trade refused to comment on reports that the Commission had recommended against both takeover bids for the group from Standard Chartered and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

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## ACC bid expected from a Court

By Philip Robinson and Paul Maidment

Share of Associated Communications Corporation were suspended on the Stock Exchange yesterday after a widespread belief that Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian newspaper and television company owner, was preparing to make a full takeover bid for the group and to replace Lord Grade as head of the company.

Discussions were going on last night on proposals for ACC to relinquish control of its Midlands television franchise to a consortium of independent television stations.

The City has been taken by surprise at the prospect that both bids would be blocked, and remains unconvinced that the Royal Bank will stay independent. The view in the stock market was that, without a bid, the Royal Bank's shares should be trading at an even lower level.

Mr Biffen has powers under the 1972 Fair Trading Act to overturn the Commission's recommendations if it finds a merger against the public interest. There is no precedent for this in the case of a merger, although the Government took the unusual step of rejecting the Commission's recommendations on credit cards.

There is expected to be support from government free-marketiers for allowing the bid to proceed. The Government is known to be interested in the outcome and may be unhappy if the bid is blocked because of the Scottish issues involved and loss of control from Edinburgh.

The erosion of Scottish assets in the Commission's findings.

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## Weather and US court action may hit BSC steel break-even hopes receding

By Our Industrial Staff

Steel Corporation programme to the United States and expected to see this rise to between 400,000 and 500,000 tonnes.

Viscount Edienne Davignon, the EEC's Industry Commissioner, warned that the American steel industry's action risked setting off a "snowballing of protectionist sentiment".

"Protectionism is no longer a risk, it's a probability," he told a press conference in Brussels.

He hinted that the moves being taken by United States industry to exclude European steel from the American market could help the American line on sanctions towards the Soviet Union.

"If some one comes along and says don't sell steel and steel tubes to Eastern Europe and then says you can't sell these products to our market, it's bound to cloud the dialogue", he said.

Davignon deplored the American decision which appeared to result from the intransigence of the country's steel companies and their determination to force a "draconian" reduction of imports of steel into the United States from



Mr Ian MacGregor: weathering storm.

The European community. The commissioner said, had a duty to prove that the seven American companies that are dumping and dumping duty actions against steel companies in Britain, France, Italy, West

Germany and the Benelux countries have a "completely erroneous" case.

While overall American imports of those steel products covered by the European Coal and Steel Community treaty had fallen by 10 per cent between 1979 and 1981, the deliveries from the EEC had fallen by 16 per cent.

Imports from the community had fallen faster than apparent steel consumption in the United States which had fallen by only 12 per cent between 1979 and last year.

These figures undermined the charge by the United States that the EEC was responsible for the problems of the American steel industry, he said, pointing out that when they saw US Steel launching an expensive takeover bid for an oil company like Marathon.

The eight companies involved in the action are US Steel, Armco, Bethlehem Steel, Republic Steel, Cyclus, Inland Steel, LTV corporation, Jones and Laughlin Steel and National Steel.

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## Threat of strikes hits the pound

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

Sterling fell sharply on foreign exchange markets yesterday in response to the general strength of the dollar and worries over prospective industrial troubles in the U.K.

The pound, which opened around the \$1.90 level, finished 3/4 cents down on Friday's London close at \$1.8865. This takes it back to the levels ruling just before Christmas.

The pound's strength against a basket of currencies slipped 0.8 to 91.0, closed at \$1.8840 to the pound and at DM2.2915.

The dollar's strength was sparked off by the smaller than expected money supply reported on Friday and the fear that money figures due out at the end of this week will show a large increase.

With dollar interest rates tending to turn firmer in response to this, the United States currency advanced on a wide front. It finished 2/4 pence higher at DM 2.2815 and the Bank of England dollar index showed a 0.5 gain to 108.2.

Notably weak against the dollar was gold. The bullion price broke through its 1981 closing "low" of \$390, recorded last August, to end the day \$11 1/2 down at \$389.

In addition to the general demand for the dollar, sterling was also unsettled by the prospective rail stoppage and the possibility that the miners will vote to strike for their pay claim.

In domestic money markets, heavy intervention by the Bank of England kept short term interest rates on an even keel for most of the day, though the overnight rate did jump to 20 per cent for late balances.

The Bank revised downwards an original forecast of a shortage of £550m to one of £450m at midday. At that stage it bought £429m of bills. After lunch it bought a further £105m.

The rate of interest on certificates of deposit is to go up to 15 1/2 per cent from today for deposits used to meet scheduled tax liabilities.

On the New York stock market the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 16.07 at 850.45.

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## Stock Markets

FT Index 530.6 down 0.8  
FT All Share 305.14 down 0.95  
Bargains 15.054

## Sterling

\$1.8865 down 325 pts  
Index 91.0 down 0.8  
New York: \$1.8840

## Dollar

Index 108.2 up 0.9  
DM 2.2815 up 225 pts

## Gold

\$389.00 down \$11.50  
New York: \$385.80

## Money

3 month sterling 15 1/4-15 1/2  
3 month Euro \$14-13 1/4  
6 month Euro \$14-14 1/4

## PRICE CHANGES

### Rises

Bejam 7p to 120p  
Berkeley Exp 17p to 364p  
Bestobell 7p to 35p  
Brit Sugar 7p to 38p  
Castlefield 10p to 44p  
Devenish 20p to 29p  
Eaver 7p to 95p  
Kier 7p to 185p  
Rennies Cons 15p to 215p  
Scotcross 9p to 98p  
Standard Chart 18p to 582p  
Telephone Rent 7p to 32p  
Union Discount 10p to 413p

### Falls

Bk of Scotland 43p to 479p  
Cons Gold 8p to 462p  
Crestham Hse 10p to 190p  
Kierros 21p to 565p  
Leyburn Plat 12p to 155p  
Marina News 9p to 251p  
Middle White 15p to 625p  
Nat W'minster 8p to 395p  
Pearl 10p to 37p  
Polly Peck 51p to 142p  
Ryl Ek Scot Grp 51p to 142p  
Seatrout 5p to 202p  
SA Breweries 8p to 202p

## Chrysler in Japan talks

Chrysler has confirmed that it is continuing to talk with Mitsubishi in Japan about a technology transfer agreement and other possible joint ventures.

Chrysler, however, denied a report from Tokyo that the company's financial position had prompted the United States Government to intervene on its behalf by approaching Japanese banks and car companies for assistance.

The talks between the company and Mitsubishi Motors, of which Chrysler owns 15 per cent, are private and began last year.

Reports from Tokyo indicate that because of the magnitude of Chrysler's debt, both the Japanese Government and Mitsubishi are being pressured by the United States Administration to extend financial assistance and low-cost loans to Chrysler.

## Gross profits improve

Gross profits of British industrial and commercial companies, both inside and outside the North Sea oil sector, rose sharply in the third quarter of last year according to the Central Statistical Office.

Profits rose to £6,800m in the third quarter from £6,100m in the second, and £5,800m in the first quarter.

Industrial profits outside the North Sea rose to £4,300m from £3,800m whereas profits of North Sea oil and gas industries was up at £2,500m in the third quarter from £2,300m.

## BUSINESS BRIEFING

### Parker call on enemy

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, last night accused both main political parties of pulling the country apart by adhering to extreme and one-sided policies to solve Britain's industrial problems.

He called for a wholehearted commitment to the mixed economy and urged the setting up of a council of industry to forge closer links between industry and government.

Sir Peter, who had earlier dodged reporters waiting to question him about the imminent rail strike, told an invited audience of academics, civil servants, and

represents from the City and ind. at the City University, London, that successive governments had "fumbled" their way through the industrial crisis.

Britain's other countries, that have the institutional enable priority to be given to industry's needs. Plans tended to believe in private sector or the private sector instead of trying to make a mixed economy successful.

Working a national industry worse now than in all his years' experience. "Onas this overall sense of 1g in a drizzle", he said.

Mr Nichiesha, a Japanese dealer in sorted cars, will begin sell BL Minis in March. It'll be the sole importer of Minis and plans to sell between 600 and 700 a year at 2 million yen (£4,250) each.

Mr Stanley Wilson, group chief executive and managing director of Burmah Oil is to take the annual general meeting in June.

Building society monthly statistics: General Government borrowing requirement. The Department of Industry and British Telecom announce the names of the manufacturers approved to supply large private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs). Plessey, Harris, Standard Telephones & Cables, GTE/Ferranti and Mitel/ICL are expected to be among those approved.

Essex County Newspapers, the Colchester publishers of one evening, six weekly and two free newspapers in to be taken over by IPC subject to the approval required under the Fair Trading Act of 1973.

## Talbot UK lay-offs

Talbot UK has confirmed that it has postponed indefinitely the recall of 3,000 workers laid off at its Stoke engine plant near Coventry because of uncertainty about the future of its £100m a year export with Iran.

The men who were laid off on December 11 were due to restart next Monday.

In a statement last night the company, which is owned by the French Peugeot-Citroen group, said the problem was the build-up of stocks in this country which could not be released until it received letters of credit from Iran.

Mr Bob Barton, sales manager of F. A. Hughes, the marine equipment manufacturers of Epsom, Surrey, who won an Export Times Black Label award for personal achievement in exporting. He beat Japanese competition to gain a £1.5m contract to supply equipment for six Kuwaiti supertankers being built in Taiwan.

£30,000 for futures seat

The steering committee of the London International Financial Futures Exchange has decided to charge £30,000 per seat for the second batch of seats on the market.

This compares with £20,000 for the first 215 seats in the market for the 185 seats in a series of advertisements starting on Thursday and demand is expected to be heavy.

Switzerland's consumer price index in December was 118.2, a rise of 6.6 per cent compared with a year earlier but unchanged from November.

Switzerland's consumer price index in December was 118.2, a rise of

## Marketing and advertising

### Hovis lifts off into the space age

هكذا من العمل

## BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## What Mr Biffen should do

There has always been more political fire surrounding the rival bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland than commercial logic. And the political considerations will continue to predominate for the next few days at least, even on the assumption that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has vetoed offers from both Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered.

If the reports of the veto are correct, then Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, has the power under the Fair Trading Act 1973, to overturn the recommendation, after due consideration with his Cabinet colleagues. We believe, without the benefit of knowing the commission's reasons for banning both bids, that there is a prima facie case for Mr Biffen to overrule the commission in the name of wider competition within the UK banking system.

That is not to say that the whole United Kingdom banking system should ever be allowed to fall under overseas control, merely that the Royal Bank of Scotland is the wrong place to draw the line.

No doubt the Foreign Office, the Department of Trade and the Cabinet's two most prominent free marketeers, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor themselves, would be deeply unhappy at the rumoured recommendations, though ministers will doubtless feel some sympathy for the Scottish angle likely to feature strongly in the report.



Mr Biffen — the power to act

But there are wider issues consequent upon a double veto. First, the Foreign Office will claim that by blocking the Hongkong bank, our relations with Peking could suffer at a time when the Chinese appear to be preparing to reach a compromise on the government of the Crown Colony where the lease expires in 1997. The Hongkong Bank, which effectively is the colony's central bank, enjoys good relations with Peking. Rejection in Chinese eyes means loss of face and could have a real, if undefined effect on our trade with China and make it more difficult for British firms to win large contracts in Hongkong.

The Department of Trade will doubtless point to the threat of retaliation to any further excursions abroad by British banks. Although it is probably true that large-scale expansion, particularly in the United States, has come to an end, there are obvious dangers in erecting a ring-fence around the United Kingdom banking system, and doubly so for a Government which professes faith in a free market.

Third, a veto would present difficulties for the Royal Bank itself and for the Scottish financial community. The Royal Bank has made no secret of the need to merge with Standard Chartered to create a larger capital base and expand away from its static, national base into the world league. Such expansion would have benefited the bank's commercial and industrial customers, as well as the Edinburgh financial community despite its relative silence on the bids.

Fourthly, a veto would entail a strategic re-think at Standard Chartered — a probable loss whatever the outcome — for SC saw the capture of Royal Bank as not only a share of the lucrative United Kingdom banking market, but as a reduction of its exposure in a South Africa which could grow politically more volatile over the next 10 or 20 years.

A veto would mean costly defeats all round, with one exception. They neatly lift the Bank of England off the

Hongkong hook and preserve its traditional supervisory role over the domestic banking system. The issue before Mr Biffen and the Cabinet is whether this kind of insular vested interest has a higher priority than the principles of free trade.

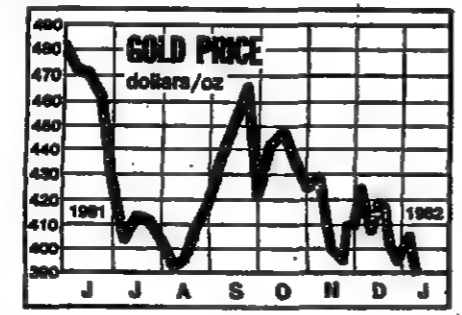
## Gold Lacklustre prospects

Gold looked a little groggy yesterday, falling \$11.50 to \$389 an ounce, but there is still no clear sign that it is poised to break out of the present oscillation around \$400. The truth is simply that the market is dull and the metal has lost much of its appeal: the price has drifted down by \$40 an ounce over the past three months, a little influenced by rumours of Soviet and Gulf selling and more depressed by high interest rates and expectations that they will persist. Political crises, notably Poland, have supported the price only temporarily. In such circumstances speculators seeking quick capital gains have deserted the market.

Indeed, without fairly solid industrial demand the picture might appear even worse for gold bull. The impact of the recession has probably been offset by the lower gold price: Christmas jewelry demand, for instance, was slightly better than in 1980. Fabrication, including dentistry and coins, consumes about 90 per cent of gold available to the market. Speculation in bullion occurs at the margin and is prompted frequently by considerations other than industrial.

What we are seeing, therefore, is gold largely stripped of its political and monetary pretensions and more akin than for several years to a normal commodity. Even the assumption that gold keeps pace with inflation must be challenged: it is certainly not doing so at the moment and a rapid drastic price increase is needed to compensate for possible losses incurred by anyone who invested at \$566 a year ago, not to mention more than \$800 two years ago.

Such an adjustment cannot be ruled out. Gold has a history of behaving abruptly. But the timing is very tricky, and there is no event or combination of events on the horizon which is likely to spark it off.



## Wholesale prices A better trend

For many United Kingdom companies competing in international markets last year's sharp fall in sterling came not a moment too soon. Yet at the same time the lower external purchasing power of the pound quickly started pushing up the price of imported raw materials, with the annualized six monthly rate of increase consistently running above 20 per cent for most of the summer.

Over the last few months, however, the news has been steadily improving as sterling has stabilized slightly above its lowest levels and commodity prices in general have remained soft. The annualized rate of increase for input prices over the last six months has dropped back to 6 per cent, and that for output prices to just more than 8 per cent.

For many United Kingdom companies the temptation ought to be to restock with imported raw material over the first quarter of this year while recession continues to keep commodity prices favourable. The hesitation in increasing in their minds, however, may well be whether or not they really are going to be turning out as many goods later this year as they may have been hoping.

Royal Bank of Scotland, fourteenth annual meeting in Edinburgh on Thursday promises to be a stormy affair. There is a fair chance that there will be at least token opposition to the re-election of the four directors due for re-appointment and the chairman Sir Michael Herries and managing director Mr John Burke are likely to be subjected to some tough questioning.

For whatever the eventual fate of the Royal Bank, parts of the Scottish community will still feel a sense of betrayal at the behaviour of the Royal Bank board, even though this has been tempered by reports that the Monopolies Commission has recommended against both bids for Royal Bank from Standard Chartered and Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's proposal to merge with the Standard Chartered Bank last March provoked immediate opposition in Scotland, mainly from groups and individuals who felt that it was another step in the reduction of Scotland to a branch economy. The Hongkong rival bid was equally unacceptable to this group.

The erosion of Scottish business life had already been seen in manufacturing, where all but a handful of major Scottish companies are now controlled from London, meaning remote decision-making and a constant drain of management and technical talent from Scotland to the South.

It had also been seen during the 1960s in the financial sector with the takeover of a number of large Scottish composite insurance houses by English firms. The North British and Mercantile, the Caledonian and the Northern were among those which were swallowed by groups including Commercial Union and Guardian Royal Exchange. Only General Accident, based at Perth, remained controlled from Scotland.

The important Scottish life insurance sector defended itself by becoming "mutualized" (companies sold themselves to their policy holders). Today only one of the nine Scottish life insurers is controlled from outside Scotland.

As manufacturing jobs are lost wholesale in Scotland, the financial sector, which has stood up well against recession, becomes relatively

Helen Barker

## Storm cones are hoisted over Edinburgh



Facing tough questions on Thursday: Sir Michael Herries, left, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland and Mr John Burke, managing director.



more important. A report commissioned by the Scottish Office last year estimated that 9,000 more jobs would be created in finance (mostly in Edinburgh) in the early 1980s.

The two independent Scottish clearing banks, the Royal Bank of Scotland (16% owned by Barclays) have been expanding over the last decade, getting in early on North Sea oil financing and into currency transactions. Both have overseas offices, in America and Hong Kong, although Royal Bank has by its own admission found international expansion tough going. This was one reason it sought a merger.

The third Scottish clearer, the Clydesdale, is wholly owned by the Midland and although it has autonomy in its Scottish operations, it is largely controlled by the Midland and its foreign transactions.

Bank of Scotland has successfully developed an autonomous merchant banking arm, the British Linen Bank (now the largest merchant outside the city of London) and a finance house, North West Securities, based in Cheshire. Bank of Scotland is also expanding into

English provinces and using American style direct selling methods.

The feeling in Scotland is that the Royal has lagged behind over the last few years, largely because it has been preoccupied with fear of takeover. In particular, it has lost the initiative in Lloyds and Scottish to Lloyds Bank and funds raised on the strength of its balance sheet. Mr Burke has said publicly that the Royal Bank has a contingency plan in the event of the Standard merger being rejected. It includes looking for a finance house and a merchant bank.

Some senior management changes are likely in the medium term. There could be a move for the removal of Sir Michael Herries and Mr Burke at the AGM on Thursday, but they will resist them without undue trouble.

Burke, however, has been under great strain through the merger affair and may take the opportunity to stand down.

The opposition in Scotland has come from a small but vocal group led by two financiers: Mr Peter de Vinck who runs a financial services company, Edinburgh Financial and General Holdings, and Mr Iain Noble, a former banker who now lives and works in Skye. Supporting them were the Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University, which coordinated evidence.

The Scottish Office was against a merger, because of the effort it would have on the Scottish economy. It also argued that it was important for the United Kingdom to maintain a second financial centre. The most vociferous lobbyist behind the scenes was Mr Alex Fletcher, Scottish Industries Minister, a George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was initially lukewarm about the merger, but is now persuaded that it is against Scotland's interests. He will argue in his speech at the rejection of both bids.

The Scottish Development Agency was against for

similar reasons, despite the fact that agency chairman Mr Robin Duthie is a member of the Royal Bank board.

The Scottish National Party was against the merger because it was an English plot, the Scottish TUC and Labour Party were against it because it was a capitalist plot. The Church of Scotland was against it because of the Standards' South African involvement.

In general, the Scottish financial community was silent, although it is usually conservative in what it says in public. Of those who did express views, the Bank of Scotland was against because of the effect a takeover would have on its own position, so was Ivory and Sims (the fund managers) because they felt it would diminish the importance of Edinburgh as a financial centre.

When the Standard bid was first announced, there was some attempt to get a Scottish counter-bid for the bank. General Accident would have been the leading company. But it foundered on legal opinion that it would not be easy or perhaps even possible for an insurance and banking business to be run by the same company.

Twice in the past eighteen months, the Monopolies Commission has voiced its concern about the erosion of Scottish commercial life as a result of takeovers by "foreign" bidders. In the case of Lombr's bid for House of Fraser, the Commission accepted that major decisions would be taken by Lombr in London but concluded that, as much of Fraser's business was already conducted in England, the risk of adverse consequences for Scotland was minimal.

The Commission showed rather more concern over the bid for Highland Distilleries by the Canadian company, Hiram-Walker. Throwing out the takeover, the Commission was plainly influenced by the arguments from both the Scottish TUC and the Scottish Development Agency that jobs would be lost, indigenous Scottish industries would disappear and career opportunities at Highland diminished. Three of the members including the chairman Mr Jeremy Hardie, who prepared the Highland report, have also sat on the Royal Bank panel.

## Financial futures: will London give Chicago a run for its money?

London's first American style commodity market — in financial futures — is gathering momentum which even the hard living, fast talking denizens of its rival institutions in Chicago might envy.

There is expected to be another rush for seats on the proposed new London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) — due to start in the autumn — when a further 185 places are advertised later this week.

When the first tranche was put up for sale last May, demand was so heavy from all corners of the City — not to mention the odd adventurer — that LIFFE would have sold half as many seats again as the 215 it allocated.

LIFFE's steering committee met yesterday to decide, among other things, what price to put on second tranche of seats. With the risk of the enterprise falling flat on its face, or making as poor a start as the New York Futures Exchange did last winter. Now much more confident, LIFFE has pushed up the entry fee from the original £20,000 to £30,000.

That is still a long way short of the cost of a place on Chicago's two financial futures markets where the entry fee is £150,000. But it will be some years before London can hope to rival the volume of business in Chicago — 25 million

contracts were traded last year.

The catalyst in the growing popularity of financial futures has been the increased instability in foreign exchange and interest rates since the early 1970s. A lower financial market operated and for months have been running a "shadow" dealing operation in London.

All the leading banks — clearing, merchant and foreign — are enthusiastic about the opportunities, while in its annual report last week stockjobbers Acicroyd & Smithers, singled out the financial futures business as an important area of growth because of the close way the United States markets have become linked with underlying bond and bill markets.

The impression, however, remains that the boat is mainly being pushed out by the market participants. The potential users, medium sized companies, building societies, insurance companies and even individual speculators appear to be hesitant.

A straw poll of corporate treasurers last week indicated that it would be some time before they became significant users of the financial futures market, not least because it would be difficult to convince boards of directors that they were not simply speculating.

To be fair, LIFFE has identified this problem and will be spending many hours in the months up to the

opening of the market giving seminars on just how and when to use these new-fangled instruments, and in particular trying to entice business from Europe, none of whose financial centres have such a market.

A more worrying stumbling block was removed last week when the Trustee Savings Bank and the clearing banks finally agreed on a price for the International Commodities Clearing House which is providing the crucial contract clearing facilities for LIFFE.

The uncertainty over the ICH's future had already prompted LIFFE to think about alternative clearing facilities, which by guaranteeing deals, provides an important confidence factor for the market as a whole.

It is still possible that the Inland Revenue could throw a spanner in the works depending on how treats gains and losses for tax purposes. Uncertainty over tax was the bane of the traded options early life and the Revenue still has not decided whether financial futures should be viewed as income or capital.

According to leading accountants Spicer and Pegler, banks and other financial institutions should have little trouble. Their futures dealings should be treated as part of taxable trading profits although the Revenue may balk at allowing unrealized losses in the balance sheets.

Non-financial institutions like pension funds, investment trusts and unit trusts may not be so lucky. Their main reason for using the market is likely to be considered the prospect of capital gain. Tax-exempt funds could find themselves liable for income tax.

Whatever the Revenue finally decides, the present uncertainty is bound to act as a brake on the market as users hold back until their tax position is sorted out.

The long-term health of the market, however, is likely to hinge on the attitude of Chicago, where financial

futures were invented a decade ago in their inimitable way many Chicago dealers reckon that London will be a nine-day wonder and that they will be able to snuff out any real competition as easily as they did with New York.

The framers of the London market have been rather clever. Instead of producing a pale imitation of Chicago, LIFFE has made great play of the fact that it will be a complete new market. Because of the different times of opening, it is thought Chicago will use London as an indicator of trends much the same as the London gold market is used.

The contrasts traded in London have also, at least in part, been chosen so that as they will not clash with the Chicago ones. The Eurodollar contract is specifically designed to pull in foreign interest.

Over the last five years financial futures have become an accepted part of financial life in the United States, and once the initial misgivings in London are overcome there is no reason why they should not become as integral part of commercial life.

Ronald Pullen

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank ..... 14%  
Barclays ..... 14%  
BCCI ..... 14%  
Consolidated Crds. 14%  
C. Hoare & Co ..... 14%  
Lloyds Bank ..... 14%  
Midland Bank ..... 14%  
Nat Westminster 14%  
TSB ..... 14%  
Williams & Glyn's 14%

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## Business Diary: Gift Horses For Courses

American businessmen overseas who live in fear of losing business by offences against local etiquette have something to calm them down. It is a 29-page booklet put out by the Parker Pen Company and called *International Business Gift-Giving Customs: a Guide for American Executives*.

In commissioning the publication, Parker Pen reasons that while the exchange of gifts is an important part of business in many countries the standard American business school is deficient in this area. Gifts and overseas business are natural interests of a pen manufacturer that sells 80 per cent of its products outside the United States.

The author of the study is Dr Kathleen Reardon, aged 32, an assistant professor of communication sciences at the University of Connecticut and author of an academic book called *Persuasion, Theory and Context*. Her research for the gifts study drew on previously published material in interviews with 125 American executives who had worked abroad.

In the booklet Dr Reardon notes that American businessmen are often "ill-prepared to conduct business in any culture other than their own". Their handicaps, she said, include a general

inability to use any tongue but English, an ethnocentrism which manifests itself in criticism of the ways of others, and in impatience to get on with business that offends sensibilities and makes the Americans easy pickings for foreign negotiators better able to use time and small talk as allies.

Dr Reardon has never lived outside the United States but does not feel this hampered her work. "It's like studying Aristotle," she told *Business Diary*, "you don't have to meet him".

Britain is apparently not a hot spot for gifts. In fact, "of all the recent studies in this investigation, Great Britain emerges as one of the least gift giving."

The study cites the "emotional connotations associated with gifts" and the "clear line between business and personal lives" observed in the country.

Since gifts are not a big part of British business, entertainment — such as dinner at a good restaurant or an evening at the theatre — are recommended as ways to show gratitude.



"How about a compromise, Arthur? Owd lad? You accept our pay offer and we'll throw in as much thermal underwear as you can handle."

protocol is given the utmost attention.

"This emphasis on formality does not mean that the British are cold. Certainly they are not demonstrative but they enjoy clever banter and are a social people. They prefer not to discuss business during evening entertainment."

The ideal gift in France complements a Frenchman's intelligence and reminds him of the glories of France's history. Gifts should not be

offered on the first encounter. Flowers are suggested for home visits, but chrysanthemums (they signify mourning) and home decorations are not.

West Germany — wrapping is important. Brown, black or light paper might offend. White bows should be shunned. Red roses are verboten (they are for lovers). Only odd numbers of flowers should be sent.

Japan — a gift should always be brought on a home visit. Other advice: do not open a gift in front of a Japanese person or expect him to open your gift in front of you. Avoid ribbons, bows and bold colours. Books, candy, cakes and liquor are appreciated; the Japanese prefer Scotch whisky to bourbon. Do not present the gift in front of others.

The Arab world — do not bring liquor. Never bring a gift for a wife (or wives). Do not present the gift at a first meeting. Books and office paraphernalia are welcome. Be wary of animal themes (they may bring bad luck). Present the gift in front of others.

Dr Reardon modestly omits from her study her own taste in gifts, but profits from the advice in her book will not spare the roses.

Sternworks

Are stock splits good for shareholders? The conventional wisdom is that they lead to higher share prices. But an article by Thomas Copeland, a California economist, in the *Chase Financial Quarterly*, a new and exclusive journal just launched by Chase Financial policy, part of the mighty Chase Manhattan Bank, argues that the market has gone into a panic.

Stock splits, or when shareholders are given or sold extra stock to lower the price of existing shares, benefit shareholders only when the company is already well regarded by the market.

This is the kind of contrary thinking coming out of American business schools. Joel Stern, one of Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, is the executive editor.

Two of Stern's own advisers on the new quarterly are London Business School academics, Richard Brealey, who is Midland Bank Professor of Corporate Finance and Accounting, and Elroy Dimson, Prudential Research Fellow in Investment.

Stern told *Business Diary* yesterday that he sees Chase Financial Quarterly as way of bridging the gap between academic research into financial markets and markets practitioners.

But few of those practitioners are likely to see the magazine. It's not just that it will cost \$1,000 a year — for which subscribers also get an annual conference — but that it will be sent to just 40 top chief executive officers in America. About the same number here will receive a somewhat modified European edition.

Joe's role: Joel Stern, Reagan economist and new editor.

Ross Davies

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								Actual	Tax
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75 62	Airsprung Group	70	-	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	-	-
51 33	Armstrong & Rhodes	46	-	4.3	9.3	3.8	8.7	-	-
200 187	Bardon Hill	200	-	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8	-	-
104 85	Deborah Services	86	-	5.5	6.4	4.3	8.1	-	-
129 97	Frank Horsell	127x	-2	6.4	5.0	11.4	23.5	-	-
68 39	Frederick Parker	68	-	1.7	2.5	29.6	-	-	-
78 46	George Blair	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
102 93	IPC	96	-	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4	-	-
105 100	Isis Conv. Pref.	105	-	15.7	15.0	-	-	-	-
113 95	Jackson Group	97	-	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	-	-
130 108	James Burroughs	114	-	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5	-	-
334 256	Robert Jenkins	256	-	31.3	12.2	3.6	8.8	-	-
59 51	Scutrons "A"	55	-	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9	-	-
222 167	Torday & Carlisle	167	-	10.7	6.4	5.4	9.9	-	-
15 10	Twinklford	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80 66	Twinklford 15% ULS	74	-	15.0	20.3	-	-	-	-
44 29	Unilock Holdings	29	-	3.0	10.3	5.2	8.3	-	-
103 77	Walter Alexander	77	-	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.8	-	-
253 212	W. S. Yeates	216	-	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.3	-	-

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100 are held for religious tables postponed due to war and will now take place Saints Church, Dorchester, Portsmouth on Monday, May 25th at 12 noon.

**GARROTT.**—A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Garrett will be held at 12 on Thursday, 4 February, at The Church of St. Peter St.

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**Edited by Peter Dear**

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**Majorana** Disappearance of a  
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Leonardo Sciascia, translated  
and adapted by Gabriel  
Jesposovici and Sacha Rabino-  
vitch.†  
News. †  
Thomas Athwood on record.†

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**Radio 2**

Steve Jones. † 7.30 Terry  
Duggan. † 10.00 Jimmy Young. † 12.00  
Quinn. † 2.00 Ian Ed Steward. †  
David Hamilton. † 3.45 News.  
6.00 David Symonds. † 7.00  
Gregg. † 9.00 Listen to the  
8.30 The Organist Entertainers. †  
The Long Palladium Story (6).  
Sir Matthew. † From midnight.  
Murders Hour. † 2.00-5.00 You  
are Night and the Music.

**Radio 1**

Radio 2, 2.00 Mike Read.  
Simon Bates, 11.30 Dave Lee  
2.00 Paul Burnett, 3.30 Steve  
Penny, 5.00  
Guest, 8.00 David Jensen, 10.00  
Paul, 12.00 Close.

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2.00 World News, 2.08 Review of  
Irish Press, 2.15 The King of  
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30 Emmetdale Farm, 11:30  
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15 Does The Team Think?  
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